FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-042
Friday
5 March 1993

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-042 CONTENTS *5 March 1993*

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

NOTICE TO READERS: JPRS Science & Technology: Europe/International will publish occasional S&T articles on Near East and South Asian countries.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Leadership Discusses Christopher Tour, Talks *[Tunis Radio]* 1
'Important' U.S.-Hamas Deal on Deportees Reported *[MENA]* 1
Hamas Claims It Suspended Talks With U.S. *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 5 Mar]* 1
Hamas Assails PLO on U.S. Suspension of Contacts *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 4 Mar]* 2
PFLP Denies Involvement in New York Bombing *[AFP]* 2
'New Palestinian Government' Reported *[AL-FAJR 4 Mar]* 3
Israel Urged Not To Miss Peace Opportunity *[HA'OLAM HAZE 3 Mar]* 3
New U.S. Team Said Taking 'More Care' of Israel *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 3 Mar]* 3
Sha'th Views Status of Peace Process *[AL-QUDS 4 Mar]* 4
Belgium's Decision on PLO Mission Status Viewed *[Algiers VOP]* 6

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Successful Police Actions Against 'Terrorists' *[Algiers TV]* 7
Gendarmerie Kill Terrorist Near Algiers *[Algiers Radio]* 7
Local Official Assassinated in Medea Province *[Algiers Radio]* 7
Nine Terrorists 'Rendered Harmless' *[Algiers Radio]* 7
Terrorism Continues Despite Lack of FIS Leadership *[Paris LE FIGARO 2 Mar]* 7
Official Receives Russian Ambassador at Presidency *[Algiers Radio]* 8

Egypt

Details From U.S. on Bombing Suspect Sought *[MENA]* 8
Education Minister Dismisses Four Students *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 2 Mar]* 8
    'Hundreds' Protest Students' Expulsion *[AFP]* 9
Musa Rules Out Military Solution to Hala'ib *[MENA]* 9
Interior Minister Plays Down Terrorist Threat *[Paris LE FIGARO 3 Mar]* 9
Policeman Killed; Over 100 Extremists Detained *[AFP]* 10
Military Court To Try 40 in Tourism Crimes *[MENA]* 10
Mubarak, Chinese Official Meet, View Cooperation *[MENA]* 10
DPRK Envoy on IAEA Inspections, Mubarak Visit *[MENA]* 11

Libya

Jallud Addresses Revolutionary Committees Movement Assembly *[JANA]* 11

Morocco

Iraqi Adviser Arrives To Deliver Saddam Message *[Rabat Radio]* 11
King Hassan Delivers Throne Day Speech *[MAP]* 11

Sudan

General Elections Slated for 1995 *[Omdurman Radio]* 12
TNA Official Meets With U.S. Envoy *[Omdurman Radio]* 12

Tunisia

Karoui on Election Prospects, Maghreb Union *[London AL-WASAT 1-7 Mar]* 13
President, 'Arafat Discuss Christopher Visit *[Tunis Radio]* 15

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Minister's No Normalization Remarks Criticized *[AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 2 Mar]* 16

Saudi Arabia

Official Denies Report on 'Arming the Kingdom' *[SPA]* 16

United Arab Emirates

U.S. Said Encouraging Israel's War Preparations *[AL-BAYAN 2 Mar]* 16

IRAQ

'Text' of Saddam Interview With U.S. Reporter *[INA]* 17
International Correspondents Visit Marshlands 4 Mar *[Baghdad Radio]* 24

ISRAEL

Envoy on Possible Hamas Role in Trade Center Bomb *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 25
Shohat Says Statement on U.S. Aid Cut 'Unfounded' *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 25
Gaza Closure To End 8 Mar; Student Stabbed in Jerusalem *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Katyushas Land in Galilee; No Casualties, Damage *[Jerusalem TV]* 26
Arab Wounded by Army Gunfire Near Bethlehem *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Jerusalem Not Certain al-Asad Remarks Show Change *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 26
Talk of Breakthrough With Syria Called 'Premature' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Activists, Palestinians Sign Manifesto on Deportees *[Jerusalem TV]* 27
Two Repatriated Hamas Deportees Released *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Commentary Views Iran as Major Threat *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 28
Withdrawal, Economic Union With Territories Urged *[HA'ARETZ 4 Mar]* 29

JORDAN

Further Reaction to U.S. Warning on Terrorism 30
    Information Minister Comments *[Amman TV]* 30
    Weekly Views 'U.S. Conspiracy' *[AKHBAR AL-USBU' 4 Mar]* 30
King Makes Donation to West Bank Awqaf Workers *[Amman Radio]* 31

LEBANON

Defense Minister Discusses Christopher Visit *[VOL]* 32
Minister on Domestic Issues, Christopher Visit *[VOMJ]* 32
Gambian Minister Meets al-Hirawi, al-Hariri *[VOMJ]* 32
Islamic Resistance Group Attacks Lahd Patrol *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 32

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Kabul, Hekmatyar Deny Restarting Hostilities *[AFP]* 33
Fighting Resumes; Hezb-e Wahdat Forces Repulsed *[Tehran Radio]* 33
Government, Hezb-e Wahdat Hold Talks *[Tehran Radio]* 33
Kabul 'Relatively Calm;' Coup Rumors Denied *[AFP]* 33
Pakistani Mediator on Cease-Fire Committee *[Kabul Radio]* 34
Mas'ud's Reported Plans for New War Condemned *[Radio Message of Freedom]* 34
Hekmatyar Says Rabbani Wants War To Continue *[London AL-HAYAH 26 Feb]* 34
* Ettehad-e Eslami: Iran Financing Assassination *[London AL-HAYAH 28 Feb]* 35

Bangladesh

Tribal Refugees Die of Starvation in India *[THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER 7 Feb]* 36
Dhaka Recognizes New Czech, Slovak Republics *[Dhaka Radio]* 36
Tribal Insurgents Kill 132 People *[THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER 9 Feb]* 36
Speaker Censures ITTEFAQ for 'Misreporting' *[AFP]* 37

India

Pawar Seeks To Restore Confidence in Congress-I *[Delhi Radio]* 37
    Pawar Formally Elected *[Delhi Radio]* 38
Chavan on Pakistan TV 'Disinformation' Campaign *[Delhi Radio]* 38
Minister Says No Change in Post-Ayodhya Investments *[Delhi Radio]* 38
Andhra Pradesh Field Begins Oil, Gas Production *[Delhi Radio]* 38
'Collaborations' With Foreign Companies Approved *[Delhi Radio]* 38
Army Foils Kashmir Militants' Infiltration Try *[Delhi Radio]* 38
Minister on Privatization of Defense Units *[Delhi Radio]* 39
Tamil Nadu Seeks Singapore Investors *[INDIAN EXPRESS 23 Feb]* 39
Strategy for Siachen Conflict Discussed *[INDIAN DEFENCE REVIEW Jan 93]* 39
Article Views Aspects of Internal Security *[INDIAN DEFENCE REVIEW Jan]* 44

Iran

Velayati Calls For Lifting Arms Embargo on Bosnia *[IRNA]* 52
    Velayati Details Position *[Tehran TV]* 52
Official Criticizes 'Useless' UN Bosnia Policy *[IRNA]* 53
    Further on Zarif's Criticisms *[Tehran Radio]* 53
U.S. Motives in Contacting Hamas Examined *[Tehran Radio]* 54
Christopher's Middle East Tour Discussed *[TEHRAN TIMES 24 Feb]* 54
Vice President on Rushdie Fatwa, Western Relations *[TEHRAN TIMES 27 Feb]* 55
Concern Voiced at Minister Confidence Vote *[IRNA]* 56
Iraqi Portrayal of Iran as 'Potential Threat' Viewed *[TEHRAN TIMES 1 Mar]* 56
Kurdish Deputy Says Kurds Have 'Complete Freedom' *[TEHRAN TIMES 28 Feb]* 57
High Cost of Visas Impeding UK-Iran Travel *[IRNA]* 57
Velayati Receives Burkina Faso Foreign Minister *[Tehran TV]* 58
Interview With Departing DPRK Ambassador *[SALAM 17 Feb]* 58
Turkish-Russian Influence in Central Asia Viewed *[Tehran International]* 58
Afghan Factions Urged To Show Flexibility *[Tehran Radio]* 59
Deputy Foreign Minister on Policy in Central Asia *[TEHRAN TIMES 22 Feb]* 59
Reactions to Tajikistan 'Islamic Tendency' Viewed *[Tehran International]* 60
Formation of 'New Global Economic Order' Urged *[TEHRAN TIMES 23 Feb]* 61
Economic Liberalization Said To Require Study *[KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 1 Mar]* 61
Khamene'i Meets With Qom Theological School Council *[Tehran TV]* 62

'Weakness' Cited in Dealing With Natural Disasters *[JAHAN-E ESLAM 16 Feb]* 63
ABRAR's Publisher Summoned on Libel Charge *[IRNA]* 63
Figures Show 54 Percent Rise in Value of Exports *[Tehran TV]* 63
Mineral Exports Fetch 17 Billion Rials in 1989-1990 *[IRNA]* 64
Phosphate Mines Ready for Exploitation *[Tehran TV]* 64
Southern Port Increases Non-Oil Exports *[IRNA]* 64
Nuclear Station Construction Reported Postponed *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 3 Mar]* 64

Nepal

Trade, Industry Welcome Rupee Convertibility *[Delhi Radio]* 65
British Minister Meets Prime Minister Koirala *[AFP]* 65
Police Break Up Communist Protest *[AFP]* 66

Pakistan

Further on Afghan Peace Talks, Adjournment 66
    Tehran Reports Meeting *[Tehran TV]* 66
    Sharif, Rabbani, Hekmatyar Meet *[Islamabad Radio]* 66
    Sharif: Agreement 'Closer' *[Islamabad TV]* 66
    Details of Draft Accord *[AFP]* 67
    Foreign Secretary on Progress *[Islamabad Radio]* 68
    Tehran on Agreements *[Tehran Radio]* 68
    No Final Agreement; Talks Adjourned *[AFP]* 68
    Rabbani Confident Fighting To End *[Islamabad Radio]* 69
    Iran's Borujerdi Meets Afghan Group *[Tehran Radio]* 69
Human Rights Movement Says 3,900 Killed in Kashmir *[Islamabad TV]* 69
Sharif on Ties With India, Kashmir *[Islamabad Radio]* 69
India's Positive Response on Dialogue Welcomed *[Islamabad Radio]* 70
Indian Defense Budget Said To Exceed Requirements *[NAWA-I-WAQT 2 Mar]* 70
Curfew Imposed in Sindh Border Areas *[THE MUSLIM 5 Mar]* 70
Agreement Signed With IAEA on Plant Safeguards *[THE MUSLIM 2 Mar]* 71
U.S., Russian Nuclear Reports Criticized *[PAKISTAN 2 Mar]* 71
Foreign Exchange Reserves Over $1 Billion *[Islamabad Radio]* 71
Minister Gives Details on New Oil Refineries *[Islamabad International]* 72
Agreements Signed for Japanese Assistance *[Islamabad TV]* 72
Afghan Minister on Steps Against Narcotics Trade *[Islamabad Radio]* 72
Six Foreigners Arrested for Drug Smuggling *[Islamabad Radio]* 72
Refugee Issue Discussed With Afghan Delegation *[Islamabad Radio]* 72
FIA Head Says 'All Efforts' To Catch Kansi *[THE NEWS 5 Mar]* 72

Sri Lanka

Japan Gives 3.6 Billion for Flood Control *[Colombo International]* 73
Legislators Welcome LTTE Compromise Offer *[AFP]* 73
Over 250 LTTE Leaders Killed Since 1990 *[Colombo International]* 74

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Leadership Discusses Christopher Tour, Talks

LD0503082393 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee last night continued its meetings in Tunis, under President Yasir Arafat's chairmanship, and discussed U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's latest Middle East tour, the outcome of PLO Executive Committee member Abu-Mazin's [Mahmud 'Abbas] talks with the Russian leadership in Moscow, the topic of the Palestinian deportees, and the future of the peace process.

An official Palestinian source told TAP that last night's meetings stressed the need to settle the issue of the deportees, to remove Israeli obstacles, which had led the negotiations to an impasse even before the issue of the deportees occurred, and to adopt the basic principles of the Madrid conference and UN Resolution No. 242 as a basis for a solution to the Middle East question.

The Palestinian leadership also stressed the need to consider Palestinian land as occupied territory, to which Resolution No. 242 should apply, and not a disputed territory, as Israel is trying to establish.

The PLO called for an urgent seven-man meeting, to include the belt countries, Egypt, one country from the Maghreb and another from the Gulf, to coordinate and unite the Arab stand in facing up to Israeli stubbornness. The Executive Committee meeting also called on the EC, Russia and China to adopt a clear and renewed stand, not one confined to an invitation to negotiations but based on active participation in order to unfreeze the negotiations, which have been in a state of deadlock since the start of the eighth round.

It was decided at the meeting that a group from the Palestinian negotiating delegation be dispatched to Washington to hold in-depth talks there with the aim of clarifying the Palestinian stand on the deadlocked negotiations. On the other hand, the Executive Committee meeting stressed that Hamas' [Islamic Resistance Movement] contact with Washington, or with any other international party, does not in any way concern the PLO, and that the latter is the main point of reference in connection with the question of the deportees or the peace dossier.

'Important' U.S.-Hamas Deal on Deportees Reported

NC0403151893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1409 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Tunis, 4 Mar (MENA)—A 4 March report in the Tunisian newspaper AL-SHURUQ cites Palestinian sources in Amman as saying an important deal was negotiated between Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] officials Muhammad Nazzal and 'Imad al-'Alami and U.S. Embassy Political officer Stuart Brown. The deal was struck despite the U.S. State Department's announcement that they had halted contacts with Hamas and its hint that the movement might be placed on the U.S. terrorist list.

The paper says a Fatah official reported that the Hamas-Washington deal included a promise not to place Hamas on the U.S. terrorist list, which the State Department will publish at the beginning of April, and not to touch Hamas' assets and investments in the United States, regarding them as individual investments.

The paper says Hamas pledged not to carry out any acts that might threaten the peace process and to accept, in principle, any U.S. arrangements on the deportees on the condition that Israel announces it is abandoning its deportation policy and that it will not deport anyone in the future.

AL-SHURUQ also says Palestinian leaders have leveled other accusations against Hamas. A prominent Fatah official in Jordan said that after striking the deal with the United States Hamas decided to "turn the deportees file over to Syria."

The Palestinian official said Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-halim Khaddam and Musa Abu-Marzuq, head of the Hamas Political Bureau, held an important meeting two weeks ago and decided to turn the deportees file over to Syria, who would then pursue the issue with the United States.

The Palestinian official said these events are a result of the close political alliance between Syria and Hamas. Hamas is the strongest of the 10 Damascus-based Palestinian factions who oppose the PLO and the peace process.

Hamas Claims It Suspended Talks With U.S.

JN0503103093 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 5 Mar 93 pp 1, 14

[By Riyad Mansur]

[Excerpts] Amman—The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has emphasized that it was the party that suspended talks with the United States when it insisted on meeting with the American ambassador in Amman himself and not any other diplomat below that rank.

Responding to a question by SAWT AL-SHA'B, Hamas official spokesman Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah said talks with the United States focused on the issue of deportees because it is a decisive and crucial issue for Hamas, especially since the United States has in the wake of the Rabin-Christopher deal become jointly responsible for the torture of the Palestinian deportees.

Asked about the possibility of resuming talks with the United States, he said: We care for these talks only for what they achieve for the Palestine question, the expellees, and our oppressed people in the occupied territories, without relinquishing any of our rights or principles.

Ghawshah added: If Washington frees itself from the Zionist hegemony over its decisions and policies, it will then discover that it is in its interest to hold talks with the influential powers in the Palestinian arena so that its stands will be more sound, rational, and realistic. He indicated that Hamas, a liberation movement opposed to occupation, is one of these influential powers. [passage omitted]

Ghawshah denied that 'Arafat has sent Hamas a memorandum, adding that all he sent was an oral message on the six-point deal between Faysal al-Husayni and Christopher to facilitate the resumption of negotiations and circumvent the issue of deportees. These points, he added, were rejected by Israel and abandoned by Christopher. They became a worthless merchandise and we do not know why the PLO continues to propagate them, he said. He accused the Palestinian leadership in Tunis of being concerned only in marketing superficial stands rather than solving contradictions, bolstering national unity, and closing ranks. [passage omitted]

Hamas Assails PLO on U.S. Suspension of Contacts

PM0503111293 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Mar 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Hamas Criticizes PLO Welcome for Washington Decision"]

[Text] London, Amman, Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, news agencies—A senior official in the Islamic Resistance Movement "Hamas" yesterday expressed his astonishment at the PLO's satisfaction with the U.S. decision to suspend contacts with Hamas. He said that "the PLO's comment on that decision has astonished us, because the PLO should not have plunged into this issue. Besides, Hamas has never presented itself as an alternative to the PLO, neither at the political level nor the informational level."

That satisfaction was expressed by PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani while commenting on the U.S. State Department's decision announced the day before yesterday by its official spokesman Richard Boucher, which stipulates the suspension of any contacts with Hamas because of what it described as "the acts of violence carried out by Hamas and its attempts to destroy the peace process."

As is known, France yesterday followed the United States' example and cut off its contacts with Hamas. Daniel Bernard, spokesman for the French Foreign Ministry, told reporters: "Contacts have been cut off, and there are no contacts with Hamas."

Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for Hamas, said in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: "We had hoped the PLO would direct its efforts toward the truthful expression of the Palestinian people's position in their daily jihad in occupied Palestine and in the ordeal which the deportees are experiencing in Marj al-Zuhur."

Ghawshah, who was one of the officials involved in the contacts, went on to say: "It is natural for a movement like Hamas to defend the deportees and demand that the Western states implement Security Council Resolution 799, which stipulates the immediate return of all the deportees."

PFLP Denies Involvement in New York Bombing

NC0403164593 Paris AFP in English 1552 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Damascus, March 4 (AFP) - A hardline Palestinian group on Thursday [4 March] denied involvement in New York's World Trade Center bombing, stressing its "battlefield" was the Israeli-occupied territories.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) said U.S. reports linking its name to the bombing were part of a "defamation campaign" against the group, which is a member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

"Our battlefield is in the occupied territories," it said in a statement signed by PFLP military leader Ahmad Fu'ad, denying any role in the New York bombing.

Friday's bombing in the city's financial district killed five people and injured more than 1,000.

New York Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly said Wednesday that the U.S. embassy in Algiers had received a telephone threat by someone claiming to represent the PFLP who warned of a bomb attack in New York.

The caller said the bombing would be carried out unless Israel immediately returned to the occupied territories some 400 Palestinians it expelled to Lebanon in December.

Kelly said that since last Friday, 66 groups had claimed responsibility for the blast and police had received 457 other bomb threats.

The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) has also been raised as a possibility but on Wednesday the group denied any responsibility, saying it also limited its attacks to targets inside the occupied territories.

Most of the deportees dumped in Lebanon are accused by Israel of being members or supporters of Hamas.

The date of the explosion, February 26, was the second anniversary of the liberation of Kuwait, and Iraq has also been cited as a possible culprit.

'New Palestinian Government' Reported

TA0403144393 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 4 Mar 93 p 1

[Text] AL-FAJR has learned that a new Palestinian government was formed recently comprising 37 cabinet portfolios.

The new ministers and their portfolios are:

1. Dr. Sari Nusaybah, prime minister.
2. Faysal al-Husayni, minister of the interior.
3. Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, deputy prime minister for foreign affairs.
4. Jamil al-Tarifi, minister of public works.
5. Ibrahim Sha'ban, minister of justice.
6. Mustafa Abu-Zahrah, minister of supply.
7. Fayiz al-Qawasimi, minister of communications.
8. Shahir Sa'd, minister of labor.
9. Hani Ghawshah, minister of energy.
10. Tahsin al-Faris, minister of agriculture.
11. Dr. Jad Ishaq, minister of environment.
12. Muhammad al-Yaziji, minister of industry.
13. Radi al-Jara'i, minister of information.
14. Dr. 'Adnan 'Arafah, minister of health.
15. Mahir al-Masri, minister of finance.
16. Ma'mun al-Khazandar, minister of religion.
17. Ghassan al-Shak'ah, minister of housing.
18. Jamil Nasir, minister of social affairs.
19. Fayiz Abu-Rahmah, minister of municipalities.
20. Zuhayr al-'Amad, minister of tourism.
21. Tahir Nasir-al-Din, minister of irrigation and water.
22. Ibrahim Khalil al-Far, minister of commerce.
23. 'Isam al-'Anani, minister of awqaf.
24. Faruq Amin, minister of police.
25. Khalil Hasan, minister of transportation.
26. Ibrahim Qara'in, minister of culture and arts.
27. Dr. Jabi Baramaki, minister of higher education.
28. Nahad Abu-Gharibah, minister of education and training.
29. Wahid al-Masri, minister of livestock development.
30. Dr. Rami 'Abd-al-Hadi, minister of planning.
31. 'Akramah Sabri, general mufti.
32. Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, attorney-general.
33. Ziyad Darwish, director of radio and television.
34. As'ad al-Saftawi, director of customs.
35. Muhammad Sa'id al-Jamal, chief justice.

It is worth noting that this new cabinet is broader than the previous one, announced last year. Na'im al-Tubasi, Mustafa Badawi, Husayn al-Nashashibi, and others have left the cabinet.

Israel Urged Not To Miss Peace Opportunity

TA0403151293 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 3 Mar 93 p 42

[Letter from Bassam Abu-Sharif, aide to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, "to his would-be assassins and members of the Israeli peace camp"; said to be "his first appeal through an Israeli paper since the assassination attempt against him in 1972"; date not given]

[Text] Israeli agents murdered Ghassan Kanafani, a prominent Palestinian writer, in Beirut in 1972. They murdered him even though Kanafani had never in his life held a gun in his hand. That same year a booby-trapped parcel was sent to me in order to kill me. I was then the deputy editor of the PFLP's [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine] mouthpiece, and I wrote my political views in the paper. Therefore, I have every reason in the world not to get too worked up about the current peace efforts and not to make up with you. You tried to murder me and you killed my dear friends. You may rest assured that there are thousands of Palestinians who have every reason in the world not to make peace with you. Despite my strong personal rancors, I made up my mind to call for peace with you, the people who killed my friends and tried to kill me, here and now. Do not miss this opportunity. Let us both put our best talents to work in order to attain peace.

Palestinians and Israelis do not live in a void. We are all part of a global system and are affected by regional and international developments. Those in charge of our future know well that people live and prosper only in times of peace and stability. Wars are destructive, although they temporarily give the winner an illusion of strength. Ultimately, justice will prevail.

After dozens of years of calamity, bloodshed, and suffering—whose origin and cause we need not go into at the moment—a chance is emerging to bring peace to our region, thanks to the seekers of peace.

Hopes rose after Labor's victory in the elections. The Israelis chose a platform of peace. However, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's positions since the elections have shattered the hopes which had been gaining momentum for two years; hopes for the emergence of a new era of security, stability, and peace between Palestinians and Israelis.

Despite the current state of affairs, I call on Israelis, including those who tried to kill me, not to miss the opportunity for peace. Let us work together to attain peace. Let us force Prime Minister Rabin—who is destroying every chance of peace and taking us all back to the past—to march with us, the seekers of peace, toward negotiation, agreement, and quiet between Palestinians and Israelis. Those who do not work for peace, both among the Palestinians and the Israelis, are short-sighted. Enough of suffering, bloodshed, and grief.

New U.S. Team Said Taking 'More Care' of Israel

PM0503101493 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 3 Mar 93 p 5

[Fathi al-Barqawi report: "'Abdallah Hurani: New U.S. Administration Working To Take Care of Israel More Than Former Administration Did"]

[Text] Tunis, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI—A Palestinian official has expressed his belief that the United States is working to continue the Arab-Israeli talks, not only on the basis of the terms set in the former administration's era, but also on the basis of working to take more care of the Israeli position than the Arab position.

PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani added in a statement to AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI that, because the six Palestinian demands submitted by the Palestinian delegation to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher last week do not meet Israeli plans, they have been abandoned by Washington, although the secretary told the Palestinian delegation they were possible to achieve. This is bearing in mind that the Palestinian demands are as follows:

— To work for Israel's full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 799 concerning the deportees.

— To issue a U.S. statement stipulating that expediting the deportees' return constitutes compliance with the resolution.

— For Israel to pledge not to deport other Palestinians in the future.

— To urge the return of a large number of the other deportees expelled since 1967.

— Israel's agreement to stop violating Palestinian human rights in the occupied territories in accordance with the stipulations of the fourth Geneva convention.

— U.S. commitment that the next round of talks would center on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, with the possibility of discussing the Jerusalem issue.

Hurani accused the Arab parties with which the U.S. secretary of state held talks during his recent tour of taking part in the talks without coordinating among themselves, despite their knowledge that they are dealing with a new administration in the White House. He pointed out that they could have set new terms for the new process and reviewed terms which, it had been agreed, were to be regarded as unjust.

The PLO Executive Committee member expressed his belief that Israel's deportation of over 400 Palestinians last December was the result of not only Israeli intransigence—which is nothing new—but also a defect in the peace process' terms. The reason is that the Israeli occupation authorities relished intransigence and continued their repressive measures, without any decisive Arab action through the negotiation process itself.

He pointed out that most of the Arab parties participating in the negotiations expressed their willingness to continue the process with the same terms as before. The majority of them have not rejected the separation between the deportees issue and the agreement to resume the negotiations.

On the world media's focus on the deportees issue, Hurani emphasized that, despite its importance, this issue is not the main issue. It is part of the terms of the general discussions of ways of continuing the peace process. He expressed his belief that Washington succeeded in driving the Arabs into the trap of making the deportees issue the main issue so that other important issues will not be focused on. He pointed out that out of the Arab parties only the Palestinian delegation widened the circle of the demands. The other parties did not do the same.

Hurani accused the U.S. Administration of trying to establish contacts with representatives from Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], describing this attempt as a malicious game. He pointed out that the U.S. aim is to split Palestinian unity and form an element of pressure on the PLO by creating a "bugaboo" with which to frighten it for the sake of obtaining concessions. The PLO Executive Committee member stresses the mistake of the two sides, the PLO and Hamas, namely that they have not been aware of the dimensions of the U.S. game. Hamas in particular is mistaken if it thinks that Washington could use it as an alternative or parallel party to the PLO. The latter too is mistaken if it submits to this blackmail.

Sha'th Views Status of Peace Process

TA0503061393 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 4 Mar 93 p 5

[Interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, by Khamis al-Turk in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Turk] Where is the deportee issue now?

[Sha'th] It has reached an important stage of intensive and critical talks with Secretary Christopher through his visit to the region. It became more intensive during his two meetings with the Palestinian delegation, headed by brother Faysal al-Husayni, in Jerusalem.

I believe that important progress was achieved during this visit, converging with the declared and clear Palestinian stance. There are two basic conditions for solving the deportee issue as well as other conditions relating to human rights violations and the negotiating process.

Regarding the deportation operation, a speedy repatriation of the deportees must take place before one can return to the negotiating process. This gives us at most two months to tackle this problem.

The second condition is a clear commitment that Israel will not resort to deportation again. In affirmation of this position, all those deported since 1967 should be returned, not just the deportees of 17 December 1992.

We believe that this should be a part of the Israeli commitment to cease violating Palestinian human rights in the occupied territories. One cannot imagine a successful peace process while Israel continues with its practices, especially killings, demolition of houses, detentions, and deportation, which, as far as our Palestinian people are concerned, embodies the greatest danger and has made us call deportation "the Palestinian holocaust," namely, the crime of uprooting the Palestinian people from their land. This is a crime from which four million deported Palestinians are suffering, not just 400. If we have been insisting on returning to the talks and the fact that these talks should be positive and governed by UN resolutions, Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and UN Resolution 194—something on which we have insisted in the multilateral and bilateral talks—it is because we are seeking the return of the four million Palestinians in addition to the speedy repatriation of the 400 deportees.

[Al-Turk] How can we achieve a peaceful solution when the United States still does not recognize the PLO and is biased in favor of Israel?

[Sha'th] We should be fully aware that Christopher's actions still represent a biased and unjust U.S. position that refuses, until now, to truly acknowledge that the Palestinian people have the absolute right to determine their future and choose their leadership and representatives. The United States still tries to claim that there are no official relations between it and the PLO and that it can deny talking to the PLO on everything that concerns the Palestinian people. This administration, however, cannot deny that in talking with any member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace conference, it is talking with delegates chosen directly by the PLO. Those delegates do not utter one word or statement and do not make any decision except by specific instructions from the PLO leadership, led by president Yasir 'Arafat.

In the first meeting between the Palestinian delegation and Christopher in Jerusalem, brother Faysal al-Husayni presented to Secretary Christopher an official message signed by president Yasir 'Arafat, representing the Palestinian position. This message formed the basis of discussion over deportation and the peace talks.

At the second meeting, Christopher presented a plan. The Palestinian delegation informed him that it could not discuss the plan before going back to president Yasir 'Arafat in order to obtain his consent, in principle, to do this. After president 'Arafat approved this discussion, the delegation waited for a decision by the PLO Executive Committee before reaching any agreement on the details. Secretary Christopher is very well aware of and understands this. The issue is nothing more than a political and diplomatic attempt to delay full recognition of the Palestinian people.

[Al-Turk] There have been increasing statements on the resumption of negotiations. Where do we stand on this matter?

[Sha'th] We have to fully clarify that only the deportee issue has preoccupied the PLO since 16 December. It is the PLO which has prevented and continues to prevent any agreement on a new date for negotiations. This is not only because of the repugnance of the deportation crime, our insistence on implementing international legitimacy, the Geneva Conventions, and the Security Council resolution, and our emphasis on the use of a single standard, but also because we refuse to have a sword dangling over our heads while negotiating. This is something that threatens the credibility of the negotiating process. Therefore, we have affirmed our insistence on implementing Resolution 799 before agreeing on a new date for the political peace process, without any doubt in our determination to continue the political process, as a service to our people's interests, after the deportee issue is resolved.

The recent statement by the Security Council president insists on full implementation of Resolution 799 as soon as possible.

Resolution 799 states that deportation is illegal and contravenes the Geneva Convention. Therefore, these are the two necessary conditions for us to return to the peace process. [passage omitted]

[Al-Turk] Is lifting the ban in Israel on meeting with PLO officials the beginning of a dialogue with Israel?

[Sha'th] I believe that the Knesset decision to lift the ban on meeting and engaging in dialogue with PLO officials will be a prelude to numerous meetings that will reach the highest official levels. Had it not been for the deportee issue, president 'Arafat would have met with scores of important Israeli figures who have asked to meet him in Tunis.

Our decision to postpone those meetings until a resolution of the deportee issue was in line with the peace process. I believe that Ya'el Dayan's visit was a beginning, but one cannot assert that Rabin decided on it. He attacked her publicly for going to Tunis. I believe that his attack was connected to timing. As brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has said: No one can hide the sun with a sieve. The Israeli Government must quickly reach the conclusion that peace cannot be achieved except by negotiating publicly and officially with the PLO at the table.

What is taking place now is negotiations with the PLO, but not publicly, not officially, and not at the table. I would like to state here that if these negotiations were to become official and public, the PLO leadership would select the same persons from inside the occupied territories to represent it publicly and officially. The Palestinian delegation from inside enjoys the confidence of the PLO, which chose and mandated the delegation to represent it. Undoubtedly, however, members from outside and from Jerusalem, who have been deprived of the right of direct representation at the table so far, will be added to the delegation.

[Al-Turk] Will dialogue with the United States be renewed through the new administration?

[Sha'th] The dialogue will not be renewed immediately, because the Clinton administration is in the process of formulating a new policy. Normally, translating this policy into specific practical steps takes some time. The Clinton administration will find itself in a situation whereby it cannot postpone a direct dialogue with the PLO, especially if the peace process and the U.S. role in it were to develop in the coming months after the deportee issue is resolved.

[Al-Turk] The Israeli media has hinted that a separate settlement might be achieved between Syria, Jordan, and Israel. Will this affect the Palestinian negotiator?

[Sha'th] I do not think that we are facing any real danger of separate agreements being signed with Israel. First of all because there is an Arab commitment on simultaneity and coordination between the bilateral negotiations and collective signing of final agreements.

Secondly, because any bilateral agreement without a Palestinian-Israeli agreement will not realize peace and stability in the region. Consequently, it will not lead to any practical result not only from the Arab but also from the U.S. viewpoint. [passage omitted]

[Al-Turk] What has the dialogue between Fatah and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] achieved?

[Sha'th] After the two meetings in Tunis and Khartoum, the direct contact with the deportees in Marj al-Zuhur, and some contacts in Amman, it can be said that some progress has been achieved in relations. There is harmony on the deportee issue and total commitment not to resort to any infighting, no matter how insignificant, in the occupied territories. There is also a commitment to continue negotiating about formulas of joint action, foremost of all a formula for the participation of Hamas and Islamic Jihad in the Palestine National Council and other PLO institutions. We have to proceed with this work.

[Al-Turk] Do you believe that elections will be held in the occupied territories in June, as Israel is saying? And how will those elections be held under occupation?

[Sha'th] We were the ones who had called for elections. We insist on free central, political, and legislative elections throughout the occupied Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem, for the election of a Palestinian legislative assembly that would form the basis of a transitional Palestinian government. The elections must be held under international supervision to ensure their fairness and the participation of everyone in them, without intimidation or fear. We were the ones who drew up the plan for these elections through the documents that we presented at the negotiating table. Our proposed date for the elections was September 199[illegible], assuming that the transitional government would begin operating in November 1992. This was the U.S. commitment in the letter of invitation. The implementation of this plan has been delayed due to Israeli procrastination and U.S. bias. We are still calling for these elections to be held as soon as possible. [passage omitted]

Belgium's Decision on PLO Mission Status Viewed

LD0403202993 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Belgium has decided to raise the status of the Palestinian Liberation Organization's mission in Brussels from the Bureau of Information and Liaison to the Palestinian General Delegation with diplomatic status as of yesterday. The announcement has been made at the Parliament by Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes. Belgian diplomatic circles have attributed this decision to raise the status of the PLO's mission in Brussels to the positive outcome of the visit paid lately by the Belgian foreign minister to Tunisia and his talks with the brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat].

Algeria

Successful Police Actions Against 'Terrorists'

LD0303204793 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Text] According to a National Security General Directorate communique, following a series of investigations, police services have managed to put out of action a 12-member criminal gang. The communique said that the police acted on the confession of one of those arrested, who tipped them off on the whereabouts of Lounis Hocene and Belagra Foudil, both residing in Berraki. Police investigation led them to the hide-out of Houche Rais in Berraki, where a clash occurred between security units and five terrorists. The operation lasted the whole morning, as a woman and two children were being held hostage. In the end, the security services managed to liquidate the five terrorists, to rescue the woman and two children, and to recover a quantity of arms.

The National Security General Directorate also said that at about 2200 yesterday, a police patrol was informed of the presence of three suspect men around the Port Said area. The patrol managed to locate the men who opened fire using automatic weapons. The police fired back, killing one, while the other two fled leaving behind their dead partner, Amir Kamal, born in 1967 in Algiers where he had been living. The two men on the run have now been identified and are currently under investigation. The operation ended with the recovery of one pistol, four cartridges, and a rifle.

At about 0235 today, a rapid deployment force on duty in El Biar managed to apprehend and kill a dangerous man, wanted by the police, at the top of Kennedy Square. The man, who was carrying a 765 mm automatic pistol and cartridges, was Lahrani Sid Ahmed, aged 24, who was sentenced to death in absentia by the military tribunal in Blida in connection with the attack on the Admiralty.

Gendarmerie Kill Terrorist Near Algiers

LD0403235393 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Excerpt] It has been learned from the National Gendarmerie Command that one terrorist was killed yesterday by the gendarmerie between Hamiz and Beni Mered on the outskirts of Algiers; two others managed to flee, however. In Jijel Province, the gendarmerie arrested two terrorists last Tuesday in Tahir region while three others managed to flee. The five terrorists were trying, according to the National Gendarmerie Command, to disarm the citizens of a village near Tahir. [passage omitted]

Local Official Assassinated in Medea Province

LD0403185693 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Security sources in Medea told APS that the head of the executive delegation in Maghoura in Medea Province was killed yesterday. Furthermore, a policeman was assassinated the day before yesterday in the center of Medea town by unidentified people.

The same sources said that the head of the delegation, Aleg Mohamed, was shot a few minutes following the fast breaking time. As regards policeman Kebaili Lakhdar, 38 years' old, married and father of six children, he was killed by three armed elements when he was coming out of a shop in the center of the town. The victim was wearing civilian clothes, and he was robbed of his gun following his assassination.

The province's security services said that they were able to identify the perpetrators of this crime who belong to a group being looked for in the region. On the other hand, a Gendarmerie source said that a person wearing Afghan clothes was wounded yesterday afternoon in Blida by a Gendarmerie patrol. The same source said that the gendarmes opened fire at the person who ignored the gendarmes' warning shots.

Nine Terrorists 'Rendered Harmless'

LD0203225793 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 2130 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] The security services have scored new points in the fight against terrorism: nine terrorists have been rendered harmless.

Terrorism Continues Despite Lack of FIS Leadership

PM0403123893 Paris LE FIGARO in French 2 Mar 93 p 4

[Special correspondent Remi Favret report: "Algeria: FIS Dismantled. But Attacks on the Forces of Law and Order Continue, and the Islamic Movement Could Regroup in a Matter of Weeks"]

[Text] Algiers—Four scrawled notices on the wall of the little Apprevai mosque in suburban Algiers: That is all that remains, after a year of repression, of the political expression of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), which was on the point of winning the elections in January 1992.

"The FIS no longer exists as a structure," a diplomat explains. "It has not succeeded in maintaining a leadership, either from the prisons where the leaders are held, or underground, or even abroad." The various groups that have escaped repression have tried to publish tracts or documents, but the total volume of such publications is plummeting. The mere possession of Islamist literature is punishable by five years in prison. The few notices that get as far as the mosque walls where the activists feel safe enough to stick them invariably call for a jihad, a holy war against the regime.

But differences have emerged between those who, underground or abroad, have taken up the torch of the ex-FIS. Ali Belhadj, the Saint-Just of the Algerian Islamic revolution, managed to issue via a lawyer (since prosecuted) a fatwa justifying the fight to the death against the authorities. But according to Ali-Yahia Abdenour, who met Abassi Madani and Abdelkader Hachani in their respective prisons, they "insist that the problem is primarily political, and that a political solution must be found."

Holy War by Fax

The only FIS figure who has freedom of movement today, Rabah Kebir, was able to reach Germany after escaping from house arrest in obscure circumstances. Although he publicly welcomed the failed attempt on the life of Defense Minister Khaled Nezzar, he is careful to avoid claiming to be the spokesman for a movement in which some components dispute his position.

In Europe and Canada, several groups claim to speak in the name of "oppressed Algerian believers." They wage their holy war by fax. Thus the International Muslim Foundation of Canada, a perfectly legal institution of the Montreal Muslim community, does not shrink from calling for murder: "All who collaborate with the puppet government must be struck down," it declares in its communique No. 16 of 15 February.

The marked lack of organization does not stop terrorist attacks from continuing at an alarming pace. They are more numerous and more deadly than you would think from the few reports prudently issued by the authorities. The official tally of 600 dead—half of them members of the forces of law and order—could easily be doubled, according to diplomatic sources. A number of eyewitness accounts attest to new assassinations since the beginning of Ramadan, while official sources remain silent.

Political Problem Remains

"The British have the IRA, the Spanish have ETA," says government spokesman Minister Messaoud Ait Chaalal. "It is a problem we will doubtless have to learn to live with for a time..." The terrorists have certainly suffered terrible blows at the hands of the security forces, and not a day goes by without new arrests. On Friday evening Ikhlef Cherati, who chaired the FIS religious affairs commission, was arrested. He is suspected of being an associate of Abdelkader Chebouti, commander of the armed Islamic Movement, the organization which causes the forces of law and order most concern.

But the difficulty comes from the strategy used by armed groups. They apply to the letter Che Guevara's favorite theory of "multiple centers." A "missionary" installs himself in a certain sector, recruits several men, and they kill police or gendarmes in order to collect weapons. In the event of arrest, the cell is totally separate from other cells of the same type, which are sometimes operating in the very same district. "The few structured networks that had been organized since 1990 are in fact the most vulnerable," an official observed.

The dismantling of the FIS should, however, leave the authorities with no illusions. The organization of Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj has demonstrated in the past its capacity to regroup in a matter of weeks. The eradication of terrorism, however long it takes, will leave the political problem untouched.

Official Receives Russian Ambassador at Presidency

LD0203200393 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] Higher State Council member Ali Haroun today received Russian Ambassador Aleksandr Aksenenko at the presidency. A statement by the presidency said the talks between the two sides focused on issues of mutual interest as well as bilateral cooperation.

Egypt

Details From U.S. on Bombing Suspect Sought

NC0503113393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1125 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 5 Mar (MENA)—An official Foreign Ministry source has stated that the ministry has instructed Egyptian Ambassador in Washington Ahmad Mahir and the Egyptian consul general in New York to initiate contacts with the U.S. Administration to follow up the case of the Egyptian said to be involved in the New York explosion.

The source said the ministry wants to learn everything about him—his identity, affiliations, and nationality.

Reports had said that an Egyptian residing in the United States was arrested on suspicion of involvement in the explosion.

Education Minister Dismisses Four Students

NC0403193193 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 2 Mar 93 p 6

[Report by Yusuf 'Izz-al-Din]

[Text] Minister of Education Dr. Husayn Kamil Baha'-al-Din issued a decision dismissing four female students from the Qalyub Secondary School for playing a cassette inciting religious sedition. He also decided to transfer teacher Thurayya Budayr to a non-educational job in Qina Governorate for allowing the cassette to be played in front of the students during an Arabic language class.

The education minister decided to deduct a week's pay from the headmaster's salary for her failure to control events in the school. He also issued a warning to another Arabic language teacher and deducted three days' pay from the salary of the library's secretary for not checking the contents of the cassettes in the school's library.

'Hundreds' Protest Students' Expulsion

NC0403181493 Paris AFP in English 1751 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, March 4 (AFP) - Hundreds of Muslims demonstrated Thursday [4 March] north of Cairo to protest the expulsion of three Muslim students from school after they allegedly tried to incite religious unrest, a police spokesman said.

The protests, which began on Wednesday, took place in the town of Qalyub, 20 kilometers (12 miles) north of Cairo, home to 4,000 to 5,000 people including a small community of Christian Copts.

The police sealed off the town to prevent an outbreak of violence but were instructed not to intervene, the spokesman said.

On Tuesday, Education Minister Husayn Kamil Baha'-al-Din ordered the expulsion from school of three Muslim students and transferred their teacher to an administrative job in the southern town of Qina after they played a cassette in a classroom denouncing Christians.

The students and the teacher also harassed the Christian pupils, residents of Qalyub told the authorities.

Their complaints prompted Baha'-al-Din's action but also triggered a Muslim outcry in Qalyub, where demonstrators have described the Muslim cabinet minister as an "apostate."

Musa Rules Out Military Solution to Hala'ib

NC0403194993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1627 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 Mar (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa announced today that Egypt does not want a military solution to the Hala'ib problem. He said Egypt and Sudan should not clash over this issue and must settle any disagreement between them by peaceful and fraternal methods.

Musa explained that there is a joint committee to discuss such issues and that it is important to both countries for the committee to continue its work because any existing problem can be solved by negotiation.

Musa said Egyptian forces have not entered Sudanese territory. He said reports to this effect are groundless and must not be repeated.

Interior Minister Plays Down Terrorist Threat

PM0503095893 Paris LE FIGARO in French 3 Mar 93 p 3

[Interview with Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Musa by Thierry Desjardins in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] Cairo—[Desjardins] The attack in al-Tahrir Square, which killed 4 people and wounded 19, shows that the terrorists are stronger than ever and that they have taken a further step in their escalation...

[Musa] Not at all. I think, on the contrary, that the terrorists are exhausted. The real danger has passed. Of course, the sickness is still there, and it will take us some time to kill the germ. But we have achieved some considerable successes.

[Desjardins] What are they?

[Musa] We have arrested all the people responsible for the previous attacks. They will all be tried very soon. As for the attack in al-Tahrir Square, we now know who was responsible for it. They will be arrested in the next few hours. And whoever placed the bomb is certainly among the people killed.

[Desjardins] It is said that since last October you have made some 8,000 arrests of Islamic extremists and that 3,000 of them are still in prison.

[Musa] That is a great exaggeration. In fact at the moment 600 terrorists are about to face trial.

[Desjardins] How many terrorists do you think there are?

[Musa] There are about 2,000. We are well aware of who they are. They belong to two separate groups—the Jihad (Holy War) and the Takfir (Renunciation). They are youngsters, often unemployed, sometimes mentally defective. The man who fired on the bus at Qena, which was carrying four German tourists, agreed to do it for 50 Egyptian pounds—less than 75 francs. You would have to be mentally defective to risk hanging for 75 francs.

[Desjardins] But you have not yet arrested the leaders of the commands.

[Musa] The leaders are abroad. We are well aware of who they are, too.

[Desjardins] Where are they? In New York?

[Musa] No. Shaykh Umar 'Abd al-Rahman, the former blind shaykh of Fayyum, is only one of the ideologues of this movement, the local Robespierre. The other ideologue is Abu-al-Zumur, an officer arrested for having taken part in al-Sadat's assassination. Those two are the theoreticians. The real leaders are in capitals closer at hand that I do not want to name for the present.

[Desjardins] The Egyptian authorities still talk about foreign involvement. Who is helping these terrorists? Saudi Arabia?

[Musa] No.. Saudi Arabia stopped helping these movements after the Mecca business. The Saudis realized that you cannot play with fire. Having said that, there may still be Saudis who help the terrorists on a personal basis. But there are other wealthy countries in the region which naively still imagine that they could supplant Egypt in its leading role in the region.

[Desjardins] Iraq? Iran?

[Musa] ...There are even wealthy Egyptians who could serve foreign countries.

[Desjardins] Are you thinking of the Muslim brothers?

[Musa] Obviously the fanatics now are the sons of the Muslim brothers. Officially, the Muslims brothers have all condemned violence. But at the same time, they have always practised it. I was a policeman for over 40 years. I arrested some Muslim brothers in 1954 following an attempt against 'Abd-al-Nasir. I arrested some others in 1965 after an attempted coup d'etat. After 1954 and after 1965 many Muslim brothers left the country, often for Saudi Arabia. They made their fortune there. Then they returned. Now they condemn this latest violence, but actually they are delighted at it.

[Desjardins] What measures have you taken to prevent further attacks?

[Musa] All measures—and without thereby troubling the tourists. You can reassure the French people. They can come here quite safely. Out of 3 million tourists, four have died. It is terribly regrettable, but it must be admitted that it is not many.

Policeman Killed; Over 100 Extremists Detained

NC0403162293 Paris AFP in English 1517 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, March 4 (AFP) - Muslim extremists have shot dead a police officer and security forces detained more than 150 Islamic fundamentalists since Wednesday [3 March], Egyptian police said Thursday.

The intelligence officer and his son were killed late Wednesday as they drove to their home village of al-Duwayr in the troubled Asyut province of southern Egypt.

Muslim extremists have now killed 12 policemen over the last year.

Security forces, meanwhile, rounded up 125 Islamic militants in al-Fayyum, southwest of Cairo, on suspicion of terrorist activities, while an army officer was arrested in the capital on charges of supplying arms to Muslim extremists.

More than 60 revolvers and automatic weapons were discovered during a sweep of al-Qalyubiyah province, north of Cairo, where another 30 suspects were detained, police said.

More than 300 people have now been detained since last Friday's bombing of a Cairo coffee shop that killed three people, including a Swedish tourist, and was blamed on fundamentalists.

Military Court To Try 40 in Tourism Crimes

NC0503111993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 5 Mar (MENA)—All the terrorists involved in strikes against tourism and attacks against tourists will be referred to a military court to guarantee a swift settlement of the cases and deterrent sentences in line with their crimes, which undermined the country's economy and security.

General Military Prosecutor Major General 'Abd-al-Ghaffar Hilal will hold a news conference tomorrow, Saturday, morning to announce the date of the terrorists' military trial and to assign the military court.

Some 40 defendants have been arrested in connection with these crimes. They face charges of premeditated killing, assaulting tourists, and disturbing the peace. [passage omitted]

Mubarak, Chinese Official Meet, View Cooperation

NC0403122993 Cairo MENA in English GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, March 4 (MENA)—Visiting Chinese State Council Vice Minister for Science and Technology Deng Nan said that she conferred with President Husni Mubarak today on close cooperation between Egypt and China in the political, economic, scientific and technological domains.

She told reporters that she conveyed to the president the greetings of the Chinese leadership and their invitation to him to visit China once more.

Minister of State for Scientific Research Dr. 'Adil 'Izz said that the president, during the meeting, lauded the good relations between the two countries. President Mubarak expressed his interest in cooperation with China in the scientific and technological fields, especially as China is contributing to the establishment of Mubarak city for scientific research and the technological development centre, 'Izz added.

DPRK Envoy on IAEA Inspections, Mubarak Visit

NC0403212893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1708 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 4 Mar (MENA)—DPRK Ambassador Kim Yong-sop said contacts are underway to set a date for President Husni Mubarak's visit to North Korea, saying this will become clear following Mubarak's visit to Washington in April.

In a news conference in Cairo today, the DPRK ambassador praised the current technological cooperation between Egypt and North Korea and announced that the DPRK is helping to develop many projects in Egypt. [passage omitted]

Commenting on demands to search North Korea's nuclear installations, Kim Yong-sop said his country completely rejects unscheduled inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. He said the IAEA is acting on the wishes of some Western countries and the United States. He said the IAEA has given the permanent members of the UN Security Council, and some other countries hostile to North Korea, information about North Korean installations that it gathered on six previous inspection visits. He said this contravenes IAEA regulations not to transfer data to any third party.

The North Korean ambassador said: We reject such searches because IAEA's alleged reasons for searching our installations are based on data it obtained from U.S. satellites, which means they are a from third party. It is possible to fabricate such data.

He called for an end to the U.S.-South Korean joint military exercises known as Team Spirit before talks over unifying the country can begin.

Libya

Jallud Addresses Revolutionary Committees Movement Assembly

LD0303190993 Tripoli JANA in English 1629 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Text] Tripoli, al-Rabia'a [March] 3 JANA, Arab Maghreb Union Pool—Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Ahmad Jallud has confirmed that the second of March was a memorable day in the history of humankind and that one of the greatest accomplishments of the great Al-Fatih revolution was when the people's power and the establishment of the first Jamahiriyah in history, were declared.

In a speech he gave to the Fifth Assembly of the Revolutionary Committees Movement, Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Ahmad Jallud said that the first signs of this historical day began with the first declaration of the revolution and the historical Zawarah speech. Thus, the journey to the Jamahariyah began and the march of the popular masses began on the Libyan land until they achieved power and embraced the birth of the people's power and the first Jamahiriyah in history.

He added that the day of the second of March was the day of the masses, heralded by God that they would prevail, and that they would govern and the vanguard. Here, he called on the Revolutionary Committees Movement to draw on the strength of this day which resounds with the struggles and battles of the masses over the centuries and past eras.

Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud also remarked that the Revolutionary Committees Movement were gathering today in an exceptional assembly in glorification of this great historical occasion and to attest that behind this great activity was a great humanitarian ideology and thus, embodies the persistence of the revolution, the persistence of the movement, and the persistence of the popular masses to strongly entrench and implant the authority of the people.

Morocco

Iraqi Adviser Arrives To Deliver Saddam Message

LD0403170693 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Statement by Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti, Iraqi presidential adviser, on arrival in Rabat on 4 March—recorded]

[Text] I have come to Morocco, our second country, to convey a verbal message to His Majesty King Hassan from his brother President Saddam. We believe that the present situation in the Arab world requires a closing of Arab ranks more than ever. My visit to the Arab states as envoy of his excellency the president falls within this framework. His Majesty King Hassan has a strong relationship with his excellency the president and shares his views and examines with him bilateral relations, the situation in the Arab world, and issues of common interest.

King Hassan Delivers Throne Day Speech

LD0403170593 Rabat MAP in English 1247 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Rabat, Mar. 4 (MAP)—King Hassan II Wednesday delivered a speech on the occasion of throne day commemorating this year the 32nd anniversary of the sovereign's enthronement. The sovereign surveyed the situation prevailing on the international arena and changes entailed by the collapse of the Soviet Union, dealt with topical international issues such as former Yugoslavia and the Middle East conflict and surveyed the progress made by Morocco in matters of politics, decentralization, information and other development realms.

King Hassan II pointed out that the United Nations Organization is playing an increasingly important role in world affairs and that humanitarian reasons are most often behind the international community's decisions. He added that the upsurge of ethnic or religious conflicts and the claims to sovereignty, difference and independence by small groups that were in the past gathered in viable entities make the role of the international community more delicate and determining than before.

'The international community must not limit itself to the Security Council resolutions that are most of the time ignored by the stronger parties', the sovereign said adding that non- interference in other countries' internal affairs must indeed be respected but that the international community cannot and has no right to be the passive spectator of atrocities targeting the annihilation of some minorities.

The sovereign underlined that the international community sometimes resorts to force to have the Security Council resolutions respected as it did in Iraq but that unfortunately such is not the rule everywhere. King Hassan II mentioned in this respect the conflict tearing apart former Yugoslavia where an ethnic group is threatened by extermination and where horrible crimes are daily perpetrated and the protracted Arab-Israeli conflict which has lasted for too long because of lack of will to end it.

Recalling that Morocco was among the first to advocate peaceful coexistence between all the peoples of the Middle East, King Hassan II said the Mideast peace process raises great hope among peace- loving people and especially among the peoples of the region but that the process might be foiled by some clumsy and thoughtless acts such as the deportation of the 400 Palestinians.

'As far as we are concerned we go on endeavoring for the triumph of peace and for the establishment of genuine cooperation and coexistence between all the peoples of the region. We remain however convinced that a fair and lasting peace cannot prevail in the region without the recognition of the Palestinians' rights to self-rule and to a free, sovereign and independent state', the sovereign said adding that the us role in this process is determining and that the US administration is aware of this and behaves consequently.

He added that the role of Arab states is equally important and that the Arab world must all extend the countries of the frontline 'a unanimous, total and unconditional backing'.

King Hassan II then dealt with home issues pointing out that Morocco witnessed a noteworthy progress in various sectors. He said that even if Morocco is seduced by modernity it has never given up what makes the essence of its personality and that he who does not grasp this double bent will never understand the deep Morocco.

The sovereign recalled the constitutional amendments that consolidate the authority of the parliament, efforts made in matters of administrative restructuring and decentralization and the consolidation of the role and prerogatives of local communities.

On the economic level, King Hassan II noted that the Moroccan economy thanks to the economic and political reforms adopted gave proof last year of its capacity to resist and overcome the reversal of juncture.

Underlining that agricultural output has been severely affected by the drought and that cereals harvest has dropped by two thirds, the monarch added that despite the fact that the deficit of external exchanges worsened because of a drop of exports and an increase of imports of food products, Morocco's external accounts globally improved thanks to the increase of tourism returns and remittances of Moroccan nationals working abroad as well as to the noteworthy growth of foreign investments which testify to the international business milieux' trust in Moroccan economy.

The sovereign also confirmed that legislative elections will take place and that the future parliament will start its works next June.

Sudan

General Elections Slated for 1995

EA0203143693 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0315 GMT 2 mar 93

[Text] Brigadier Hasan Hamadayn, chairman of the Political, Mobilization, and Publicity Committee of the Transitional National Assembly, has announced that general elections will be held in Sudan during the year 1995. He told the Jordanian SAWT AL-SHA'B newspaper, which published the report yesterday, that the building of the political system in Sudan would be completed in 1995 after the people's congresses had been held up to state level. He pointed out that congresses had been held at the level of localities, towns, and governorates, and that they would be held at state level this year as a final step prior to the convening of the general national congress which would elect the next Sudanese Parliament.

Brig. Hamadayn added that the people's congresses would discuss all political, economic, and social issues concerning the state. He pointed out that up till now 1,600 congresses had been held in which 5.3 million citizens took part.

TNA Official Meets With U.S. Envoy

EA0303210193 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Text] Mr. Ahmad Abd al-Rahman Muhammad, chairman of the decentralized government committee in the Transitional National Assembly [TNA], this afternoon received in his office in the assembly Mr. (Lushi Bambrooke), the new political attache of the U.S. Embassy in Khartoum. He briefed him on the political and constitutional developments in the country and the role and experience of the national assembly under the federal system.

During the meeting, Mr. Ahmad Abd al-Rahman affirmed that the Islamic civilization is a world phenomenon for peaceful existence which requires concerted efforts to specify it and its various dimensions. The meeting also dealt with the Hala'ib issue. His excellency promised to present a copy of the statement prepared by the committee in this respect.

The political attache of the American Embassy also met Mr. Hasan Hamadayn, chairman of the political affairs mobilization and information committee. The political attache promised to explain the Sudanese political system in America.

Tunisia

Karoui on Election Prospects, Maghreb Union

PM0403130093 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 1-7 Mar 93 pp 39-42

[Interview with Tunisian Prime Minister Hamed Karoui by Kabi Tabrani and 'Abd-al-Latif al-Furati in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-WASAT] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali set the second half of March 1994 as a date for the presidential and parliamentary elections in Tunis. Do you expect the opposition to enter parliament through these elections, or will the situation remain as it stands, as is the case in the present parliamentary council, that is representing one color only?

[Karoui] Democracy and pluralism in Tunisia's new era are not a slogan raised only on occasions or a transient step. They represent a cultural option and a fixed orientation on which there can be no backtracking. They stem from the personal conviction of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, who firmly believes that our people deserve a developed and organized political life based on real political pluralism. [passage omitted]

And because of the president's belief in the need to further embody pluralism and give the opposition parties the opportunity to be represented in the constitutional institutions, especially in the parliamentary council, according to their spread and popular grass roots, he decided to amend the ballot system with regard to the parliamentary elections in order to ensure a transitional phase and a qualitative move toward pluralism in the parliament. The new ballot system will provide real prospects for the opposition parties to be represented by deputies in the parliamentary council in its next structure. Thus the opposition's entry into parliament has become a settled matter in the light of the change which the election campaign will witness. We can say that the present parliamentary session is the last session of a one-color parliament. [passage omitted]

[AL-WASAT] Fundamentalists participated in the previous parliamentary elections through tickets and lists they termed independent, and obtained 17 percent of the votes. Will you allow any parties other than the recognized opposition parties to participate in the next elections, especially the unrecognized Ennahda movement or those who support it?

[Karoui] The country's laws, especially the parties law, are clear. They do not allow the formation of any party whose principles, aims, activities, or programs are based on religion, language, or race. And every party must renounce all forms of violence, extremism, racism, and all other aspects of discrimination. This is in addition to avoiding any activities liable to harm security, public order, and others' rights and freedoms. A political party is a party which operates within the framework of constitutional legitimacy and the law. On the basis of these clear principles, the so-called Ennahda movement has nothing to do with political action. It is nothing but a terrorist gang hostile to the civilian society's constituents, democracy, freedom, and human rights. The Tunisian people tested this extremist group and saw its true face and thus rejected it completely, especially as they ascertained the duality in its rhetoric, its hatching of plots, and its planning of assassinations and bloodshed. [passage omitted]

[AL-WASAT] Tunisian legal sentences were passed against the Ennahda movement leaders who fled the country, and summonses were also issued before the trial. What was the response of the states sheltering and helping them?

[Karoui] As is known, every state has its own laws and legislation. For our part, we submitted all the documents and arguments which prove that the so-called Ennahda movement has nothing to do with political action and that it is merely a terrorist gang. The states in which some of the fugitive elements are based are required to take account of this and to ensure that their territory is not a staging post for the terrorists' actions, in order to avoid harming our relations with them—relations which we are anxious to safeguard and strengthen.

[AL-WASAT] In his recent interview with AL-WASAT President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali emphasized that Sudan is sheltering, training, and arming Tunisian fundamentalist elements. Have any positive developments occurred in the Sudanese position since the interview we conducted last November? And what about the Iranian position vis-a-vis Tunisian fundamentalists?

[Karoui] Everyone now knows that Sudan is sheltering on its territory camps for terrorists, who are trained in sabotage operations and receive various forms of support and assistance. No positive development has occurred in the Sudanese position yet. As for coordination between Sudan and Iran, it is a reality known to everyone.

[AL-WASAT] There have been reports that the Tunisian Government intends to raise at the UN Security Council the issue of Tunisian fundamentalist elements' being trained by Sudan and Iran, on the grounds that these two countries are intervening in Tunisia's internal affairs to undermine the regime there. What truth is there in this?

[Karoui] At present there is no intention of raising this question at the Security Council. But we reserve the right to resort to all legal and legitimate means to protect our homeland against attempts to undermine its security and stability, interfere in its internal affairs, and smuggle in elements of terror and sabotage. We have documents and evidence which prove some foreign parties' involvement in plotting against our security and in allocating bases to train terrorists and provide them with various forms of assistance. We have informed national and international public opinion about some of these documents, and we will not hesitate to use everything the law allows us to use, and international conventions when needed.

[AL-WASAT] Tunisia is president of the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA] for this year. What steps will you take to speed up building this union?

[Karoui] Building the UMA is a vital and historic necessity in view of the developments and changes the world is experiencing and the emergence of groupings and blocs. Building this union has always been among the priorities drawn up by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali for perpetuation in reality. And through the Maghreb leaders' joint political will it has been possible to make important steps in the required direction by concentrating the union's organs, supporting its structures, and ratifying numerous joint programs and agreements. But the steps which have been taken—though important—still need a further impetus in order to implement all that has been agreed, give Maghreb action greater credibility, and make ordinary citizens feel the direct effect of this action in their daily life.

Tunis was the first to ratify all the agreements and allow Maghreb citizens to reside, work, own [property], and transfer [money]. Tunisia—represented in President Ben Ali—has been resident of the UMA since the beginning of last December, and is anxious to allocate this period to continuing to complete the programs and agreements, now that the joint structures and institutions have been concentrated. And it is obvious that the difficulties facing our region have affected the pattern of our joint march, and we hope these difficulties will be surmounted.

[AL-WASAT] You visited Libya recently at the head of a high-level Tunisian delegation, and it was noted that the interior minister was among the delegation members. Was one of the visit's aims to do with security? And what did this visit achieve, especially with regard to the continental shelf, joint exploitation of the al-Buri oilfield, and Tunisia's share of this exploitation?

[Karoui] The aim of our recent visit to Libya was to take part in the meeting of the higher follow-up committee, which includes members of the government in Tunisia and secretaries of the General People's Committee in the Jamahiriyah. The meeting produced positive results with regard to consolidating the relations of cooperation and integration between our two countries, especially by guaranteeing the movement of people and commodities. There is joint eagerness to implement all the agreements between the two countries in all spheres. And we consider bilateral cooperation to be a support for joint Maghreb action and consolidation for the move toward establishing an Arab Maghreb without borders and in which there are no barriers and obstacles.

[AL-WASAT] Did Libyan officials ask you during the visit to mediate with the Western states to resolve the Lockerbie crisis and its results?

[Karoui] Without waiting for the Libyan brothers to ask, Tunisia is sparing no efforts to secure an honorable solution to the Lockerbie issue—a solution that respects fraternal Libya's sovereignty and is in line with the requirements of international legitimacy. From the outset President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has issued his instructions to Tunisian diplomacy to move in that direction. And the president himself is continuing his endeavors to achieve the required solution. [passage omitted]

[AL-WASAT] A conference of Arab interior ministers was held in Tunis recently. Some reports emphasized that a coordination plan was formulated there among Tunisia, Algeria, and Egypt. What truth is there in this? And what are the frameworks of this coordination?

[Karoui] Regardless of the Arab interior ministers' conference, which was an occasion for meeting and consolidating contacts and consultations, the plots being hatched by extremist and terrorist gangs prompt the targeted countries to reinforce their cooperation and coordinate their positions in order to confront the attempts to harm their security and stability. And in order to confront the terrorists' schemes we are urged to cooperate in order to safeguard our societies' safety and protect them from the perpetrators of chaos and sabotage. [passage omitted]

[AL-WASAT] Some observers believe that Iran has begun to prepare itself to play a hegemonic role in the Gulf after Iraq's recent defeat—which requires that the foreign forces stay there to safeguard regional security and balance. What is your opinion? And how do you view Iran from Tunisia?

[Karoui] Iran is a Muslim country. And as we are anxious not to interfere in its internal affairs and choices, we hope that it will do the same, that anything that is liable to harm the Gulf region's security and stability will be avoided, that mutual respect will be the dominant principle, and that magnanimous Islamic values and the principles of our true religion, which calls for brotherhood and solidarity, will be the basis. We believe that any provocation, tension, or escalation in the Gulf region will complicate conditions even further and will never serve the interests of the peoples of the region. So the wise thing is for everyone to be committed to respecting the sovereignty and independence of all the region's countries without exception and respecting UN conventions and international legitimacy. [passage omitted]

President, 'Arafat Discuss Christopher Visit

LD0403191693 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Excerpt] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat at Carthage Palace at noon today in the presence of Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya and PLO Executive Committee member Hakam Bal'awi. In a statement after the audience, Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat] emphasized his happiness at conveying to his excellency the president the greetings of the Palestinian people and the Palestinian mojahedin on the occasion of the blessed month of Ramadan. He added that the meeting was an important opportunity to talk about current developments in the Middle East, i.e. the outcome of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit and the serious developments currently taking place inside the occupied territories, including the mass punishment of 1 million Palestinians inside the Gaza Strip by the Israeli prime minister, who has isolated them completely from the rest of the world for the second successive day to continue perpetrating his crimes without any fuss from the media.

Abu-'Ammar asserted that he had briefed his excellency the president on the proposals which had been discussed with the American secretary of state, pointing out that the Palestinian side reiterated the importance of Jerusalem in any future talks, given its place as a focal point for all Palestinians, Arabs, Muslims, and Christians, and therefore needed to be discussed at all stages of the talks. He also stated that his talks with His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali also dealt with the importance of finding a solution to the problem of the deportees in such a manner that would allow Palestinian and Arab delegations to resume the negotiations for a just and comprehensive peace. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Minister's No Normalization Remarks Criticized

PM0503101393 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 2 Mar 93 p1

['Abd-al-Bari 'Atwan article: "That Is How Kuwait Has Become a Dwarf"]

[Excerpts] The problem with some Kuwaiti officials is that they believe that their "emirate" is a superpower which can influence the course of mankind's history and that being close to it is heaven while being distant from it is hell.

It is regrettable that these people are not only involving their people in avoidable hostilities and grudges but also trying to involve the entire Gulf region and move it to the camp opposed to the Arabs, Arabism, and fundamental Arab causes.

At a time when good Arabs are intensifying their efforts to contain the repercussions of the Gulf war and restore Arab solidarity, Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad has come out with "heroic" statements stating categorically that his emirate "refuses to normalize relations with the states which supported and continue to support the Iraqi regime's occupation of Kuwaiti territory, especially Jordan and the PLO leadership." He added that this—meaning restoration of relations—"is rejected even as a mere possibility." [passage omitted]

Anyone hearing these vociferous statements, which reflect a unique type of diplomacy, might think that the states in question were crawling on their knees to kiss the amir of Kuwait's feet or his foreign minister's feet seeking pardon, forgiveness, and restoration of relations that would bring them bountiful prosperity and blessing.

We thought that some Kuwaiti officials had learned the lesson of the tragedy and had begun to abandon that "excessive self-inflation" which lost them the support of so many brothers and which was clearly manifest after the Iraqi forces invasion of their emirate. The statements of Shaykh Sabah, said to be the more experienced diplomat, show how wrong we were.

We do not want Shaykh Sabah to "normalize" his relations with the Palestinians, Jordanians, Yemenis, Sudanese, and all other Arab peoples who have seen how Kuwait has become a Western colony protected by foreigners. We want him to normalize his relations with his own brothers within the ruling family first and then with the rest of the Kuwaiti people. [passage omitted]

Kuwait today is a political, financial, and diplomatic dwarf because of its spiteful policies which are making more enemies and embarrassing what is left of its friends.

We beseech God to protect Kuwait from some of its sons and their statements.

Saudi Arabia

Official Denies Report on 'Arming the Kingdom'

LD0403214593 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2035 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Riyadh, 4 Mar (SPA)—A responsible source at the Ministry of Defense and Aviation made a statement to SPA in which he said: "All that was broadcast by the American Network BBS [as received] in its weekly program "Frontline" under the title "Arming the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia" is totally fabricated and has no basis of truth whatsoever.

United Arab Emirates

U.S. Said Encouraging Israel's War Preparations

JN0503110293 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 2 Mar 93 p 1

[Editorial: "Israel Prepares for War"]

[Text] News reports have said that Israel recently conducted a fifth test of an Israeli-manufactured antiballistic missile called the Arrow. Although the test was not completely successful—the test missile missed its target by a few meters—the report in itself has many implications which must be considered.

First, and most importantly, Israel is preparing for war at the time when the Arabs are not bored with talking about peace. And, despite the fact that it has a budget deficit that stirs the anger of opposition parties, Israel does not hesitate to spend millions on the war effort. Reports have said that the first phase of missile production has cost some $180 million. Although the United States has since 1988, toward the end of Reagan's term in office, been putting in three quarters of that amount, the rest is substantial enough to burden the Israel budget, which is not spent indiscriminately.

This preparedness for war, which is being done with help and encouragement from the United States, is connected to Israel's intransigent position in the negotiations and its fabrication of obstacles that render the achievement of a peaceful settlement impossible, unless such a settlement takes the form of a total surrender by the Arabs and a submission to Israel's ambitious designs in the Middle East.

In a situation like this, it would be absurd, or even an unforgivable act of relinquishment, if the Arabs put all of their eggs in the basket of the U.S.-led peace settlement.

In order to bring about some balance in the entire question, the Arabs must face the Israeli preparations with similar, if not greater, preparations. Only then can there be a move from the condition of total surrender to the condition of a just and comprehensive peace.

We have said time and again that the Arabs do not lack anything in preparing their strength against their enemy. Will they do so?

'Text' of Saddam Interview With U.S. Reporter

JN0403182193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Mar (INA)—On Saturday, 13 February, leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, received U.S. reporter John Town Albert [name as received], to whom he granted a television interview. During the interview, the leader president, may God protect him, touched on Iraq's position toward the United States as well as a host of international, Arab, and domestic issues brought about by the major showdown of the eternal Mother of Battles between Iraq and the forces of evil and tyranny.

The meeting was attended by Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi and Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf.

The following is the text of the dialogue that took place during the meeting:

[Albert] Mr. President, do you feel relaxed in television interviews?

[Husayn] We consider it a duty, that is, part of the work. However, I do not like it on the human level because I do not like things to be prepared in advance. I also do not like cameras and I get bored with questions prepared in advance. I prefer spontaneous human dialogue.

[Albert] When the Iraqi military forces entered Kuwait, did you expect the military retaliation to be that strong?

[Husayn] We expected this and more.

[Albert] Really?

[Husayn] Exactly.

[Albert] When the bombs were dropping, did you expect such a response?

[Husayn] My answer is that such things are secondary in life. First, the Iraqi people are deep-rooted, and the deep-rooted people pass through many things throughout their history. Some of these things are tragic, like the plague which killed thousands of people and the wars, such as the Tatar invasion of Baghdad.

The Iraqis also fought the Iranian aggression for eight years. Part of the details which you are saying are not the most important. There are more important things such as the questions: Why did the Iraqis, who imagined what would happen, adhere to the course which they believed was the correct one?

[Albert] This is my important question. Did you really imagine such a strong retaliation, and yet you crossed the border into Kuwait? Did you envisage and anticipate the consequences that took place, and yet went on?

[Husayn] If you are asking about will and justice, we will make a reassessment.

You know that last month, and after all that war, an unjust warning was issued to us by the world's four most powerful states—the states that possess the most destructive capability. Yet, we rejected the warning. This is in spite of the fact that we have witnessed in detail the destruction that took place in 1991 and the destructive power in action.

Suppose that you have an armed neighbor, while you have nothing but a stick. If this neighbor unjustly demands that you leave your own house, or, otherwise, he would use his weapons against you. Will you obey this neighbor who illegally demands you evacuate your own house, the only reason being that he possesses a weapon that is more effective than yours?

All that we have experienced, in terms of threats and the use of weapons against us, was prejudged against the criterion that whoever wants to harm us and use weapons against us must be unjust and wants to deprive us of our humanity and our rights. This is what has always made us reject the unacceptable, or which should be unaccepted from a human point of view. Against the same criterion, we accept the acceptable, which is based on human dialogue and sound human relationships.

[Albert] During the war, the American people did not realize the extent of the destruction caused to the Iraqi people. But now, they are becoming aware of the suffering of the Iraqi people.

[Husayn] Do Americans know that thousands of children, women, and elderly people died during the war, and that people are dying now as a result of food or medicine shortages?

[Albert] I do not believe that they knew this fact at the beginning of the war, but I believe that they have come to realize it now.

[Husayn] If the American people are aware of these facts now, then I believe that our sacrifices have a great human weight. This is because such sacrifices will make the American people refrain from allowing their rulers in the future to use U.S. military power for destroying and oppressing other peoples.

[Albert] Many Americans have the following question in mind: What are your future plans? This is because they hear that you are capable of developing chemical and nuclear weapons. So, what is your intention in this regard, and do you plan to develop and use such weapons?

[Husayn] What is the thing that we were doing before the war? We were building our country. We used to convert the oil funds into projects in the fields of health, education, roads, transportation, and other development projects. This was our basic work before the war. I believe that all the U.S. newspapers and magazines used to speak about this before the war. They did not say that Iraq was directing its capabilities toward developing chemical weapons. However, all of a sudden and for political reasons, they began to emphasize that Iraq is developing chemical weapons. Some even said that Iraq is developing nuclear weapons. Regardless of the details, everything has now become clear to the inspection teams. These teams have stated their opinion about all the details related to this issue. However, I would like to draw your attention to other facts. You must have known that when we, in Iraq, met with Mr. Robert Dole from the United States, along with a group from the U.S. Congress in the spring of 1990, and before the Kuwait issue, we told Mr. Dole that we are ready to act positively if there was a genuine desire to make the Middle East a zone free of chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons. We spoke with the Egyptian president about the same issue. When the Egyptian president asked us whether he can announce this, we told him, yes you can announce this and say that this is Iraq's position. We told him that he also can inform the United Nations of this Iraqi position. However, when some slogans and issues were meant to be used for the purpose of mobilizing U.S. public opinion against Iraq, these facts were concealed by the U.S. news media, and U.S. officials did the same thing.

[Albert] So, this is your chance now to address the American people directly? I wonder: Can you now make a simple, direct, and clear announcement that you will not make or use these nuclear and chemical weapons?

[Husayn] I have told you about our position before the war. So, if this was our position before the war, then we do not have to reiterate this position. Despite this, if such reiteration will be useful to the American people to educate them about all facts as they really are, then we will always be ready to act positively and effectively to make the entire Middle East a zone free of weapons of mass destruction.

[Albert] Now, there is a new administration in Washington. Do you think that there is any hope, now that President Bush is gone, that there can be better relations with the United States?

[Husayn] With regard to Iraq, it has always been willing to establish relations based on mutual interests and respect, and on continuous efforts to serve, together with the United States, world peace and humanity. As you know, we had diplomatic and economic relations and exchanged visits with America under Presidents Reagan and Bush.

But, once it was decided that a special arrangement should be taken against Iraq we saw what happened. Therefore, regarding Iraq, we are still ready to discuss establishing new relations with America if America has the same desire.

[Albert] If President Clinton was sitting here opposite you, what would you like to tell him?

[Husayn] When the U.S. President sits in front of me, I will tell him what I have to.

[Albert] How about if President Bush was here?

[Husayn] We are believers, and believers should not speak about the bad acts of people, particularly when they move into a relatively weak position. One of the Arabs' qualities is that an Arab should only fight a person who is riding his horse and carrying his sword. Now that the former U.S. president has no sword and has dismounted his horse, we cannot speak about him in a manner that harms him. Also, we have no intention to alleviate his sins when we speak about his past. So, let us speak about the future.

[Albert] What can the future look like? It is always the same question. What we have concluded is that, effectively, the American public do not trust you?

[Husayn] At any rate, whether the American people trust us or otherwise, I believe that they will come to realize that in Iraq there are people who are most trustworthy.

Well, why do the American people not trust us, for example? This is a question for the American people to answer. However, my response is that American politicians and the media that cooperated with them, for purposes that have been exposed during the recent elections, have been deeply involved in attempts to distort the image of Iraq.

To help the American people realize the truth as it is, they should raise questions concerning the past. Why did the United States establish relations with Iraq and why was it eager to have balanced and developed relations with us if Iraq is as bad as it is reported to be in the media?

You know that when the war was raging between Iraq and Iran, one of the U.S. warships—Stark—was hit by a missile launched by an Iraqi aircraft, causing U.S. casualties. You know that that incident was caused by an error, and that the U.S. Government then acted most judiciously in its relations with Iraq. It did not react militarily to the error. Of course, you know that the error was not that of the Iraqi pilot, but that that the warship Stark entered an area that was considered prohibited in accordance with an Iraqi war announcement. However, aren't the results of an incident like this involving the injury of a large number of U.S. sailors—between 28 and 30—more important than the mere execution of the spy who holds British nationality and is of Iranian origin, called Bazoft?

Why didn't the American media and the U.S. politicians make a case of that issue but, for example, magnified the Bazoft case? This shows that U.S.-Iraqi relations at the time could handle any incident through dialogue and wisdom. Therefore, the United States used to trust what Iraq said. Why has this changed?

[Albert] Basically, the American people have now been conditioned not to trust you. Many people believe that if, for example, we turn and walk away, that you will be back across the border in Kuwait?

[Husayn] This is because of the politicians and the media. Some of them are still portraying the situation in this way. But if we had the same media potential as the United States, we could have addressed the American people and explained to them how the U.S. Administration made the Kuwaitis become part of the conspiracy against us. Then the American people's perception today might have been different.

[Albert] But, sometimes, don't you have to avoid taking the bait?

[Husayn] No, the question is not a question of bait but one that should be addressed within the framework that an injustice has been done to us, and that man is dutybound to repulse this injustice when he is able to do so. In every case, if the tasks of superpowers and big powers is to make some countries clash with other countries as a cover for their aggression against the other countries, then these superpowers and big countries can always do this.

[Albert] Now, whenever you think about Kuwait, Kuwait is a much smaller country than your country. It does not measure up to your country militarily. The same situation exists with you vis- a-vis Kuwait. In other words, the United States is a big country and can push you around and did push you around. You are a big country and pushed Kuwait around. How can we stop this? I mean what happens, you winning militarily, and then the United States winning militarily in a much bigger and more violent way? Is there another way of dealing with this?

[Husayn] Through historical correction with evidence. You know that Kuwait succeeded in getting a resolution from the UN Security Council on the so-called return of land to which it previously had absolutely no claim, land which is part of Iraq. It succeeded in bringing the United States and 33 countries to Saudi Arabia, that is the Kuwaiti rulers and the others who cooperated with them. The oil countries managed to make all the big countries and superpowers carry out a military aggression against Iraq. What force did they use? They used money. Some of the countries came voluntarily while others were forced to come along. Had the Kuwaiti and Saudi rulers—which are small countries if compared to others—and other countries not paid money to these 33 countries, the 33 countries would not have come to the holy land of Islam to commit aggression against Muslim Iraq. Could anyone who carried out all this be considered a weak country? Would you consider any country weak that before 2 August used to announce that it intended to bring the value of the Iraqi dinar to its lowest possible value and also intended to reduce or minimize Iraq's resources and revenues to the lowest possible level? Therefore, the Kuwaiti rulers used the weapon they had to the maximum. Their weapon was money. When you have an aggression that one party commits against the other and one of these parties uses the resources it has to the maximum against the other party, the question then should not be why have you used this or that method to tackle such a state of affairs. The question should focus on why and in accordance with what plan did the Americans make the Kuwaiti rulers use their financial resoures as part of the plan to destroy Iraq's economy. Therefore, in these circumstances the Kuwaiti rulers were morally weak but not so in terms of means. The Soviet Union was strong militarily. But, when it became weak economically, it became weak in all fields. Therefore, when the Kuwaiti rulers used their funds to weaken the Iraqi economy, they launched a war against Iraq but with the means they had at hand. We warned them against this at the Baghdad summit which convened three months before the incidents of 2 August.

[Albert] Well, I am wondering then if the same situation existed again, then in your perception Kuwait [words indistinct] undermine your economy again, would you do the same thing that you did beofre? Would you go into Kuwait again if you felt that it would solve your problems?

[Husayn] It would not be right to put forth a hypothetical question, then expect an answer from a head of state on the basis of that hypothetical question. The question should be why are they using their money in such a way as to destroy Iraq's economy?

[Albert] Then you would feel justified in retaliating in some fashion if they did something like that?

[Saddam] I replied to this. I said that it would not be right to put forth a hypothetical question and ask a head of state to reply to this hypothetical question. This question could be tackled by a journalist in an article. A head of state only deals with facts and tangible things so that his reply can be based on facts.

[Albert] Did you think up the phrase Mother of all Battles....

[Husayn, interrupting] Why are questions about issues having to deal with Kuwait long ones and questions about humanitarian issues short ones? If you are sincere in informing the American people about the facts as they really are, you must give other questions the attention you are giving to other questions, So that there may be a balance in matters like the aggression that was committed against us. Thirty-three countries against one country, and all those U.S. and French weapons, not to mention British weapons. All these weapons have been used against a people. Why didn't the U.S. officials ask themselves what right they had to mobilize all these armies against a small country like Iraq? You must be fair if you want to get balanced results. I suggest you give the other issues the chance they deserve in your questions.

[Albert] We have all day.

[Husayn] I am ready. I spent more than three hours with Mr. Clark. I am ready to answer all your questions. I want you as an American individual, as part of the American people, to ask the questions that you feel will contribute to clarifying the picture for the American public. Once you have asked all the questions that you feel will contribute to clarifying the picture for the American public, then the job will be done.

[Albert] If you wish to learn about the way of thinking of the ordinary U.S. citizen, I have talked to many Americans and they are indeed dissatisfied with the bombardment and the destruction which this military power has brought to Iraq. At the same time, however, Americans are also dissatisfied with the way by which you entered Kuwait and the military action which you carried out. Accordingly, they are of the view that you committed a mistake and that Bush also committed a mistake. There is a common saying that two wrongs do not make a right.

[Husayn] After 2 August [1990], we talked a lot and for a long time about the issue of Kuwait. I believe, or rather assume, that you are acquainted with all matters which were discussed at that time. Therefore, I do not want to talk about the issue of Kuwait again. However, and to help the U.S. people not make a historical misjudgment, they should ask themselves a specific question: If the military aggression, launched by a 33-state coalition and 28 armies, was carried out against any other country in the world, and if there was an embargo imposed on everything and not only economic goods, imposed on people who did not believe that they were right, would such a people go ahead in the same manner as we are now?

I believe that the answer is clear. If the Iraqi people did not believe that they are right, would their stand toward their leadership be the same as their stand now, taking into account this aggression with all its known features, along with the blockade which is still continuing? It is known that despite all that has befallen the great Iraqi people, they still adhere to their leadership. What does this mean? It means that the Iraqi people have details and are acquainted with issues that are not available to Americans. I know that the U.S. people, just like any other people in the world, respect the opinion of others. If I am right, I believe that every American is duty-bound to know facts as they are, including the fact that as the Iraqi people still adhere to their leadership, despite all that has befallen them, then their attitude must be too clear and correct to explain their current position, and that they are too well acquainted with the facts and this has prompted them to adopt such a stance.

[Albert] There is a great difference between the United States and Iraq. In the United States, we have managed through elections to end Bush's term in office, do the Iraqi people have such a choice?

[Husayn] Let us discuss this issue calmly. They had said this same thing before all these armies, fleets, missiles, and aircraft came. Maybe those who were not really aware of realities inside Iraq believed this. However, all these armies came and a destructive force unleashed its lava of injustice against the Iraqi people who, nevertheless, remained attached to their leadership, despite a comprehensive blockade on them. So what does this mean?

This means that the American people have dismissed their president. If the Iraqi people were dissatisfied with their leadership, they would have done the same thing. The least they could have done is to take advantage of the arrival of these armies and forces, as well as the destruction inflicted on Baghdad and other cities, to tell their leadership that they cannot afford its staying in power.

You should not think that my relationship with the Iraqis is technical, because a technical relationship would be lost amid these events and can achieve no results. Our relationship with the Iraqis is a human relationship. A deluge took place and nevertheless the Iraqis remained faithful to their origins, roots, and stands.

These are the facts which I think would be useful for the U.S. public to know so that they can discover many other facts which had been falsified to them.

You know that world media have toppled many governments. Some nations even collapsed when the media were mobilized against them with far less concentration than was the case with Iraq. Why is that? This is because the relationships of these governments with their people are technical relationships based on using the stick of security only. When an imbalance occurs and security is shaken, these governments will disappear. But in Iraq, the deluge took place because of the aggression and there was a flood of blood and of victims. Everything was destroyed, even schools.

And now, there are thousands of people and children who are dying as a result of food and medicine shortages. The people do not say that their leadership is the cause of all this, but say that the foreign aggressors have caused this. This is because a large number of Iraqis were barefooted and millions of them died of hunger in the past and as a result of the lack of food and medicine. But, when their nationalist leadership led them, deaths by hunger ended and deaths as a result of medicine shortages in Iraq before the aggression became rare. Anyone who used to become sick and could not find the right medicine or treatment in Iraq, we used to send him to America, France, or Britain after which he returned to us healthy. The Iraqis know that they were poor economically and financially, and that this leadership improved their conditions as they were before the aggression because it used to work day and night for the interest of the Iraqis and for the sake of serving the nation. The Iraqis know all this and remember it very well. This is why they know that it is not their leadership which is responsible for these crimes, but others.

[Albert] Looking back two years, do you wish that you had behaved differently in light of the people's suffering, because many of them, when they look back and examine what they have done, wish that they had done nothing. Great leaders do the same thing. So, if your excellency looks back, would you wish that you had not done some of the things that you did so as to spare the blood that was shed and the war which broke out?

[Husayn] From the viewpoint of humanitarian wishes, I do not wish to see any man on earth lose a drop of blood as a result of fighting. We tried all means to prevent the eruption of war and to follow any path that would lead to peace. If you scrutinize the details before the night of 16-17 January 1991, you will acquaint yourself with many of the initiatives that we presented to build a bridge of understanding based on dialogue and far removed from war. Only then will you see how America and its allies did not want anything other than war, and how they foiled every attempt to achieve peace, including that conference which was scheduled to be held by five Arab states at the summit level in Saudi Arabia.

If all these pages do not convince those who read them that Iraq sought peace and did not want war because of the details of the Kuwait issue, the Americans should ask themselves why we were attacked last month after all that took place and after Iraq had implemented the Security Council resolutions. Suddenly, they directed an ultimatum to us with the same mentality with which they issued their previous ultimatum asking us to abandon our humanity, patriotism, and correct stand or they will launch an aggression against us, and they really committed aggression against us.

[Albert] Do you think that Bush was trying to kill you personally when he hit the al-'Amiriyah shelter during the war and when he recently hit the al-Rashid Hotel, believing that you might have been attending the Islamic conference at that hotel? Do you think that Bush was trying to kill you personally or assassinate you?

[Husayn] I do not want to make a guess in a dialogue such as this. However, I believe that the future will reveal many things. I have seen remarks and conclusions made by others, including some Americans. But should a head of state be so small as to begin tackling matters in this personal way.

I hope that your question, which is close to a conclusion, will not be true, because if it turns out to be true, then it will undermine the meaning of the post of a head of state in the world.

[Albert] Obviously, your excellency was the target?

[Husayn] In any case, regrettably, I have been acquainted with confirmed matters which I personally read in Mr. Schwarzkopf's memoirs.

I have also been acquainted with the correspondence and telephone conversations that had been exchanged between Washington and the military operations headquarters in Riyadh, and between Schwarzkopf and the Presidential office and its advisers in America. All such contacts revolved around whether or not to strike at the Arch of Victory and how. This is because the arch represents Saddam's fists. These contacts also revolved around whether or not to strike at bronze or stone statues in Baghdad representing Saddam Husayn. Such statues have been built by the Iraqis, and Saddam has nothing to do with them. Having read these facts in Schwarzkopf's memoirs, I asked myself: What kind of age is this which gives birth to such people who call themselves leaders. Yet, they harbor such a horrible extent of personal rancor.

Naturally, I believe, any man would regret such blind personal rancor on the level of leaders, whether they are military or political leaders. At any rate, if anyone wanted to strike at Saddam Husayn, God has willed otherwise. This is the current state of affairs as you see it now. Praise be to God, His will has prevailed.

Therefore, any person, irrespective of how great he considers himself and how great the capabilities are at his disposal, must remember that God is greater and more capable.

[Albert] Was it you that coined the term Mother of Battles?

[Husayn] Yes, it was us who launched this name. Is it not the crucial battle? Have you heard or read of a similar battle?

However, I would like to explain to you that this term has not been launched to describe the material aspect of the battle, but its spiritual and moral aspects above all.

[Albert] This interview will be broadcast in Japan, Europe, and Italy. People want to know if it is possible for Italy to have trade and economic ties with Iraq. In Italy, people protested the war, and many people did not like what happened and they were not satisfied with it.

[Husayn] Of course this is possible. It is even possible to have trade and economic relations with the United States, whose previous administration led the aggression against Iraq. If this is the case, then it definitely makes more sense to have such ties first with Italy and all other nations which desire to have trade and economic ties with Iraq. We have had such ties in the past.

[Albert] What would you like to say to the Japanese people who will watch this interview?

[Husayn] Pass my regards to all nations and to the Japanese and American people. People will side with the truth when they get enough information. Some rulers side with the devil in their decisions and behavior. But when peoples have faith and discover the truth, then they will side with the truth.

[Albert] Your Excellency President Saddam Husayn, despite all your problems, do you have cheerful times? In other words, do you have hours for leisure and pleasure? What do you do to entertain yourself?

[Husayn] As for me, when I work for my people and nation, this has a quite positive influence on my psychological and moral situation. If I feed a hungry person, I feel happy. If I visit kindergartens, I find happiness there. If I go to the peasants and meet them on their farms, that is real entertainment. In addition, this is work. If I meet with people from all ranks anywhere in Iraq, I consider that a source of happiness. Sometimes, I change the routine. For example, if I get tired of constantly reading documents and correspondence, I stop and go see farmers in their fields. If I hold a series of meetings and decide that such meetings have started to strain me, I go to a factory or visit people in their homes.

[Albert] What do you do for your physical fitness?

[Husayn] I eat in a reasonable manner. When I see that my weight has increased to such an extent that it could be criticized by the Iraqis, I work to reduce my weight by eating less and doing any type of exercise that reduces weight. When I lose too much weight and the Iraqis begin to feel anxious and raise questions, I increase my weight by 1 or 2 kg.

[Albert] So, can we talk about a special Saddam diet?

[Husayn] No, I do not have a special diet.

[Interpreter Sa'dun al-Zubaydi] It was my mistake. I told him you have a special diet program.

[Husayn] No, I do not like this. I eat when I finish my work and sleep when I finish my work. I do not have a special program to eat or sleep at a fixed time. The Iraqis themselves do not like this way of eating and we are part of the Iraqi people.

[Albert] Do you know English?

[Al-Zubaydi] Sometimes the president corrects us.

[Husayn] No, not to that extent, but sometimes we understand some of what is said in English and sometimes we need a translator to translate what you say. But, in all cases we need a translator to convey our opinion and what we want to say. My English is what I learned in secondary school.

[Albert] Would you address a very simple message to the American people in English?

[Husayn] I will speak in Arabic and the interpreter will convey what I say. My message is that we wish all nations, including the American people, happiness, prosperity, and peace.

[Albert] If you were to address a special message to President Clinton, what would you say to him?

[Husayn] We have our diplomatic channels to say what we should say, and through these diplomatic channels we can listen to what President Clinton wants to say to us. In the past, the dialogue between us and the former U.S. president was through the media. Now, we prefer to follow normal channels if there will be any talk between us and President Clinton in the future.

[Albert] We are not going to break any diplomatic channels today.

[Husayn] It is better this way.

[Albert] What is your opinion of Clinton. I am sure you watch his trips and listen to what he says on television over satellite?

[Husayn] The former U.S. president used to believe that I sit in front of CNN all day and watch him. This is not true. I think he drummed up that idea in his own head. I get written reports of what is said in the media. I once received a written report that the former U.S. president knows that Saddam Husayn is now watching him on CNN and that he was addressing him. Yes, I was acquainted with his message, but not at the time CNN was broadcasting it. I read it later when editors delivered it to us.

[Albert] I am still curious to know what you think of President Clinton.

[Husayn] We hope that he will make people all over the world say good things about him. For this to happen, everybody must help him so that the possible use of force will be remote and actions will be well-thought-out and wise, because America has many weapons and its destructive methods are so varied. If anyone, whatever his education, was asked to use U.S. force, he will inflict great destruction, but not everyone can employ wisdom in a responsible manner.

[Albert] People in the United States are eager to learn about your policy toward Israel and Palestine, especially if some kind of understanding is reached. What stand will you adopt toward Israel in such a case?

[Husayn] At any rate, the questions which are always posed are hypothetical ones. However, I would like to comment on certain matters that may help you and others understand the way we think. Arabs are against racism and against religious discrimination among humans or among the one people in the same homeland. Arabs do not assess their relations with others according to religion or race. They hate fanaticism because they believe that it makes them unrealistic and unwise. Therefore, vigilant Arabs who have a cause have never taken into consideration the type of religion or race in their relations with the peoples with whom they have differences in race or religion.

In any case, if the Palestine question is resolved fairly and in a manner that puts things in their right place, and if the Palestinian people are satisfied with such a solution, I believe that all Arabs, including Iraq, will be satisfied and will deal with such an outcome in a new atmosphere.

[Albert] If we speak specifically, under such circumstances, can you envision an Israeli state and a Palestinian state existing side by side, if the two sides were to agree on this?

[Husayn] I have said clearly that we should not give anything before we attain our clear rights. For example, you should not tell me that I have to recognize your rights while you do not recognize mine. However, the question is: Do you believe that Israel would give the Palestinians their rights? I do not believe so. This is because throughout the past years, we have come to know their mentality. They maneuver and do not seek to achieve rights. I believe that had some of the influential states accepted the 12 August 1990 initiative, the world would have realized the true path of achieving peace. You just saw how they expelled Palestinians from their homeland. And now, there is some talk about double standards. But all this talk, and these significant meanings which should appear clearly to mankind, that there are double standards; the fact is, they already use them regarding any issue. They apply them to the 400 Palestinian expellees and ignore the major issue; namely, that there are millions of people expelled, and the 400 are only one some of these wrongly expelled people who are being persecuted on a daily basis by occupation authorities. Therefore, the double standards are not applied only to the issue of the 400 Palestinian expellees, but they mainly exist through keeping silent over the unjust occupation of the land of Palestine and the oppression of the Palestinians.

[Albert] In light of what you have said, it seems that the problem has no solution. However, let us presume that an agreement was reached?

[Husayn] No, there is no problem that cannot be resolved. However, when there is a sincere intention free of premeditated purposes toward any complicated issue in the world, problems will then be resolved.

[Albert] But, if the two sides reached an agreement?

[Husayn] I have answered this and said if the solution satisfies the Palestinian people, then this will satisfy all people, including the Iraqi people. The Arabs will then be dealing with new results and with a new situation in this regard.

[Albert] Do you envision, even by way of imagination, that during our lifetime, there will be a time when the Middle East becomes free of war or disputes, and when all its problems have been resolved?

[Husayn] If only God Almighty spared the peoples of the Middle East the evil intentions of other powers, then they would have lived without war, destruction, and problems. The wars in the Middle East are brought from overseas, not from the Middle East. They sow the seeds of wars, and then begin to talk about their results.

[Albert] You have talked about evil in the world. At this time in particular, where do you believe evil lies?

[Husayn] Evil lies in the feeling of some nations that they are too strong, so much so that they distance themselves from wisdom.

[Albert] If you are talking about the United States, the United States is obviously a country that has values that differ from the values of the Muslim faith. The United States is not an Islamic state, and we have our own guidance system for what is good and what is bad.

[Husayn] I did not say the United States. In the past, yes. But in the era of the new U.S. President, I do not like to use this term, unless it becomes certain to me that there is a continuity in the past state of affairs. In this regard, you should remember this difference between the people of the United States and other peoples of the world, not only when you use the big stick, but also when you talk about the political system and how it should be, democracy and how it should be applied, subservience and how it is accepted, and friends and how you draw a list of their specifications. You should also talk about the rights of other people in the world. As a common human concern, all people are supposed to be seeking good and avoiding evil. I know that the Christian faith believes in this. The American nation is a Christian nation. Christ's commandments state that thou shalt not kill; thou shalt not steal, etc... These commandments reflect the same concepts about which I am talking.

[Albert] Will the world then become a wonderful place in which to live if we apply these commandments?

[Husayn] It is "if," but Satan came to this earth with Adam and Eve. Whenever Satan is capable of directing things in his own way, disasters and problems will prevail, and when the spirit of goodness directs things, peace, cooperation, and love will prevail throughout the world.

[Albert] With all the destruction that was going on, with the war that erupted, and with all the killing that took place in Iraq, are you now going to extend the hand of friendship to the United States?

[Husayn] Yes. When the bases of friendship and willingness exist on the American side, we are ready—despite all that took place—to establish relations based on mutual respect, common interests, and joint efforts to achieve peace and happiness for humanity. Grudges do not build a homeland and, at the same, capitulation does not maintain the dignity of homelands.

[Albert] Why did you choose this particular time to address the U.S. people?

[Husayn] I can tell you clearly that this decision was made as a result of our friendship with Mr. Ramsey Clark, and also in appreciation of the stand adopted by this American man who managed to stand alongside the right despite all the distortion which was covering and facilitating falsehood. We also made this decision because the request for it came at this particular time.

[Albert] I understand that, but what are you seeking to gain from this interview at this particular time?

[Husayn] You requested the interview through Mr. Ramsey Clark and we responded favorably. You asked us and we answered. God willing, it will be good. We always hope for good with God's help. We have great confidence that people can discover the facts, even after a long time.

[Albert] Your Excellency, can you try to say, even one sentence, in English to the U.S. people?

[Husayn] I abstain from saying anything in English because I believe that I can express myself more accurately in my own language. This is not out of bigotry. If I could speak English in a manner that would enable me to express what I would like to say, then I would speak in English, Italian, Spanish, or another language.

[Albert] We have understood your position. This interview is being conducted in a rather formal way for me. I wish we could walk together through the palace.

[Husayn] I would love to show you some of the facilities in the palace, but since you have asked for this, we will leave it for some other time because it will appear as if we were acting. Be patient like the Iraqis and you will see how facts will be revealed as they truly are. I think that the Americans will be greatly saddened when they discover the truth about the aggression and the injustice done to the Iraqis. During this stage, some Arabs have felt how awful their action against Iraq was. This is the best consolation for the Iraqi people. You are most welcome.

[Albert] Thank you very much for devoting all of this time for us.

[At the end of the interview, Baghdad INA in Arabic adds the following comment: "It is worth mentioning John Albert had acco??ormer U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark on his recent visit to Iraq (?during) the U.S. military aggression against Iraq in February 1993 [as received]."

"Albert also shot two films about the effects of the brutal U.S. bombing of civilian targets and neighborhoods in Baghdad and the governorates of Dhi Qar, al-Qadisiyah, al-Muthanna, and al-Basrah. The director at NBC, however, refused to air the two films after watching them, because they expose the criminal practices of the Bush administration against the Iraqis."]

International Correspondents Visit Marshlands 4 Mar

JN0503081693 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Correspondents from world radio and television networks, newspapers, and news agencies today visited the marshes of al-Basrah Governorate.

Correspondents from BBC radio and television, German television, the Swedish paper (?WEINHESS), VISNEWS television network, and REUTER and two AFP cameramen witnessed the way of life of the marshland people in al-Madinah District. They also witnessed the flow of food supplies and food distribution according to the ration card system and the spread of medical teams and centers despite the economic and medicine blockade imposed on the people of Iraq.

The teams also visited the city of al-Jumhuriyah, al-Basrah neighborhoods and markets, al-Ma'qal port, and the sewerage system pumping stations to inspect the damage inflicted on these areas because of the continued blockade.

During a meeting with the international correspondents, al-Basrah Governor Latif Mahal Humud gave a report on the suffering caused to citizens in the governorate by the continued blockade. He gave statistics on the grave damage to the sewerage system and drinking water installations as a result of the acute shortage of spare parts and chemical additives for drinking water, as well as the ban on importing pumps and other equipment needed for these installations. He also gave statistics on the growing number of deaths among children and women resulting from the shortage of vaccines, medicines, anesthetics, and other material needed for surgery.

He also referred to the new marshland now under development. He said the area of agricultural land to be irrigated from the canals will be over 700,000 donums. Strategic crops will be grown on this land, he said, to achieve self-sufficiency and develop the marshland areas and utilize their great resources.

Envoy on Possible Hamas Role in Trade Center Bomb

TA0503082493 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Telephone interview with Itamar Rabinovich, Israeli ambassador to the United States, in Washington by Uri Paz and Ge'ula Even—live]

[Text] [Paz] Good morning to our ambassador in Washington, Professor Itamar Rabinovich.

[Rabinovich] Shalom, good morning.

[Paz] Can a straight line be drawn this morning between Muhammad Salamah, whom the United States has detained on the charge of setting off a car bomb, and the peace talks due to resume soon? In fact, Israeli public relations, which have always pointed an accusing finger at international terror and mainly that of radical Islam, could have no better succor.

[Rabinovich] We cannot say anything yet about the detention and its significance, because even the authorities here held one news conference and announced another but did not convene the second one because of possible legal problems. Talk of suspects and their affiliation may be premature from their point of view, and, therefore, there is at present a sort of official radio silence, which requires that we tread cautiously. For that reason, we do not want to engage in speculation at present. But naturally, if it transpires that Middle East-based terrorist operations have moved to the United States, this will have far-reaching significance in more than the peace process context. We are awaiting more substantiated information, and, in the meantime, we are not taking part in the debate launched by Friday's press.

[Paz] In any event, it will not hurt the Israeli argument; on the contrary, it may help our battle against terrorism and promote our stands.

[Rabinovich] I suggest we wait for full details. The discussion of Middle East terrorism is not always necessarily beneficial to the Israeli cause. Of course, if anyone is going to be embarrassed, it will not be us, and Israelis who claimed that Middle East terrorism exists in the United States will be vindicated. It is too soon for declarations, however, and we are therefore maintaining silence and caution.

[Even] But would not such a revelation of the involvement of a fundamentalist Muslim show that just like us, the United States is exposed to radical Muslim terror?

[Rabinovich] I would leave out the word extreme, and I would not use the word Muslim either as yet. I would like us to act as cautiously as the American authorities.

[Paz] We would like your opinion on the bill, which congressmen intend to submit, that would outlaw Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and bar the entry of people affiliated with this organization into the United States. Does such a move have a chance in Congress, particularly at this time?

[Rabinovich] Such bills often start out as vigorously as this one has but are later put off. I would like to point to another development, however—namely, a statement by the State Department spokesman announcing that the administration has decided to terminate all dialogue, including the most superficial talks, between American representatives—most notably in Amman—and Hamas. This official State Department announcement speaks for itself.

[Paz] Prof. Rabinovich, thank you very much.

Shohat Says Statement on U.S. Aid Cut 'Unfounded'

TA0503084593 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Telephone interview with Finance Minister Avraham Shohat by Ge'ula Even and Uri Paz—live]

[Excerpt] [Even] Good morning, Minister Avraham Shohat. William Harrop said yesterday that Israel should be prepared to take a cut in U.S. foreign aid, that Israel must not build on it any longer, that it should carry on alone. Last night, however, the U.S. Administration denied it and rebuked Harrop. What do you know about this?

[Shohat] As far as I know from talks with people who have recently come from Washington and from reports I have been receiving from our embassy, the statement is unfounded. We assume, we are quite certain that the U.S. aid will not be cut in the 1994 fiscal year. This was reflected in the budget bill that comprises the full framework. I think the administration's denial reaffirms this fact, and I am quite confident there will be no cuts.

[Paz] You are leaving for the United States on Saturday night for meetings with the U.S. secretary of the Treasury and other administration officials. Despite the denial we have heard, do you worry about the possibility of additional pronouncements such as Harrop's, because the emphasis these days is on domestic U.S. issues?

[Shohat] As I always say, it never hurts to be a little worried, to not be overconfident, but with regard to this issue I can tell you that I am going to the United States to meet with congressmen and administration officials, and I believe it is quite evident there will be no aid cut.

[Even] In fact, your trip has an additional purpose: to make sure the U.S. aid is not slashed in the coming year or two and even in the more distant future. Harrop has made similar remarks in the past, and perhaps he knows what he is saying.

[Shohat] From the point of view of our needs and the fact that we use the aid to pay off a considerable part of the defense debt we incurred when our strategic importance to the United States was immense and when weapons were naturally vital for our own needs, the policy should exclude any aid reduction. [passage omitted]

Gaza Closure To End 8 Mar; Student Stabbed in Jerusalem

TA0403182793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Excerpts] The closure imposed on the Gaza Strip two days ago in the wake of the Tel Aviv killings will be apparently lifted on 8 March in the morning. The final decision will be made on 7 March. [passage omitted]

Major General Dani Yatom, the Central Command commander, has ordered the closure for two weeks of a Bethlehem school whose students have been stoning security forces and tourists in Manger Square in recent days.

The Jerusalem Police Central Unit has captured the Israeli truck driver who fired at stone throwers in East Jerusalem two days ago, killing a Ra's al-'Amud resident. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the 34-year-old man, a resident of Jerusalem, confessed to the deed and reconstructed it. He will be remanded tomorrow. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1800 GMT on 4 March notes that "in Jerusalem's Old City, a yeshiva student has been stabbed in the second such incident in the past two days." The report adds that "his wound proved to be not serious. He was able to reach his yeshiva on his own and he refused to be transferred to hospital."]

Katyushas Land in Galilee; No Casualties, Damage

TA0403200293 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Here is an update by our correspondent in the north Moti Eden: A short time ago, several Katyusha rockets landed on the other side of the border fence with Lebanon, in western Galilee. There were no casualties and no damage was caused.

Arab Wounded by Army Gunfire Near Bethlehem

TA0403112793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] In a stone-throwing incident at the village of Bayt Jala near Bethlehem this morning, a 20-year old Palestinian was seriously wounded by Army fire. Soldiers opened fire after they were stoned while on patrol in the village.

Jerusalem Not Certain al-Asad Remarks Show Change

TA0503073293 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] What is that phased peace President al-Asad is willing to discuss in return for a gradual Israeli withdrawal? Jerusalem is still unprepared to answer this question unequivocally. The Israeli delegation to the peace talks proposed a modular peace plan a long time ago. According to the modular peace proposal, the first stage, for instance, would entail a partial peace based on a few components in return for initial withdrawal and the deployment of U.S. troops between the two parties. This is only an example of a proposal that has not been raised in the negotiations. So far, the Syrians have insisted on receiving an Israeli commitment to a full withdrawal from the Golan as a condition for any kind of peace.

When talks resume in April, the Israeli delegates will try to ascertain whether the Syrian stand has undergone a change: Are they now willing to discuss partial peace in exchange for partial withdrawal or did President al-Asad only mean that he would be willing to accept a phased withdrawal after Israel has promised full withdrawal?

The belief in Israel is that official invitations to the next round of peace talks will not be sent before the beginning of April. According to information received in Jerusalem, the Arab countries plan to postpone their foreign ministers meeting until the end of this month in a bid to ensure that the meeting secures pan-Arab agreement to return to the negotiating table. The invitations to the peace talks will not be sent before the results of the Arab foreign ministers meeting are known.

Talk of Breakthrough With Syria Called 'Premature'

TA0503064693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Telephone interview with Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador in the United States and chief negotiator with Syria, in Washington by Me'ir Einstein in the studio—live]

[Text] [Einstein] Good morning to Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador in Washington and head of the Israeli delegation to talks with Syria.

[Rabinovich] Good morning.

[Einstein] Is THE NEW YORK TIMES revelation of an imminent breakthrough in negotiations with Syria true?

[Rabinovich] No. The negotiations will not resume before next month, and we should not abuse the term breakthrough; I think its use at this point is premature and exaggerated.

[Einstein] Can you confirm that as far as you know, President al-Asad has indeed told Warren Christopher that he is prepared to accept gradual withdrawal, that he no longer demands full and immediate withdrawal from the Golan Heights?

[Rabinovich] No, I do not think I can confirm the report as it is. The impression we received from the secretary of state and his aides was that they had had good talks in Syria, that the Syrians will first of all try to create a favorable atmosphere and to build a good relationship with the new administration. They definitely expressed their desire to pursue the peace process and to score achievements and implied that they will be receptive to various approaches and ideas, but saying that a magic formula is waiting for us would be an exaggeration.

[Einstein] But if President al-Asad did make these remarks, will that constitute a significant development?

[Rabinovich] Again, without attaching undue importance to various verbal observations of President al-Asad, I can say that even prior to the secretary of state's visit, the Americans, the Israelis, and other parties who had been in contact with both the Israelis and the Syrians felt there was promising potential. This feeling was apparently strengthened by the secretary of state's talks in Damascus. At the same time, remarks and innuendoes made in talks with the Americans—if they were—will have to be made explicitly to us and translated into agreements when we return to the negotiating table. We still have a long way to go. The commentary carried by THE NEW YORK TIMES is interesting and important, but it hardly heralds the content of negotiations; rather, it reflects the prenegotiations state of affairs.

[Einstein] Will Israeli continue insisting that there is to be no discussion of the scope of withdrawal in the Golan as long as Syria does not explain the substance of the peace to which it aspires?

[Rabinovich] This is indeed our policy, and we will indeed want to hear the Syrians utter these things directly and explicitly in talks with us, rather than indirectly through an emissary.

[Einstein] To elucidate the issue, I will repeat a question I asked at the beginning of the interview: Can you confirm that the Israelis did not hear the secretary of state say he had heard President al-Asad make the observation reported by THE NEW YORK TIMES?

[Rabinovich] As a group, we did not hear these remarks, and we do not expect everything the secretary had been told and every exchange between the secretary and heads of the Israeli administration to become public knowledge. Therefore, we act cautiously where these things are concerned.

[Einstein] Prof. Itamar Rabinovich, thank you.

[Rabinovich] Thank you.

Activists, Palestinians Sign Manifesto on Deportees

TA0403201193 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] The Palestinians will not return to the peace talks, leading members of the Palestinian delegation stated today in a rally with Israeli left-wing activists at the al-Hakawati Theater, in East Jerusalem. Correspondent Gil Sadan reports that a joint manifesto was signed at the end of the rally demanding the return of the deportees and recognition of the right of the Palestinians to establish an independent state:

[Begin recording] [Sadan] Mutual understanding was reached today at the al-Hakawati Theater between people who see eye to eye to begin with, between Israeli left-wing activists who usually support the Palestinian demands and Arab public figures. One week after Christopher's visit, the Palestinian leaders explained why they could not return to the peace talks.

[Sa'ib 'Urayqat, in English] Rabin managed to put an obstacle in front of us that is much higher for our capacity to jump over it. From the beginning, it's like playing seesaw: We were standing at one side, Rabin jumps on the other, we fly. We are at the summit of a tree, and from the beginning we opted to mechanisms of damage control. We did not complicate matters, and we did not want to nail the box that Rabin put us all in, and we said to everybody who came, including Secretary Christopher: Don't try to convince us of this peace process; we are convinced. We need a ladder to come down.

[Faysal al-Husayni, in English] What Sa'ib 'Urayqat said was that it is not a matter if we would like to go or not; it is if we can go or not. Without solving the problem of the deportees, we cannot go. This is what he said.

[Sadan] Al-Husayni walked into the theater and at the end of the meeting all signed the manifesto and went home knowing that they have over a month to climb down the tree. [end recording]

Two Repatriated Hamas Deportees Released

TA0503055293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] Security forces have allowed two of the five Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportees repatriated recently from south Lebanon to return to their homes. The two are Zudi Tabila and Zuhayr Libadah, both residents of Nabulus.

Since their return, Zudi had been in detention at the Qezi'ot jail in the Negev, and Libadah was treated in various hospitals for a kidney ailment. After his release yesterday, Libadah was taken by his family to the East Jerusalem al-Maqasid Hospital for further treatment.

Commentary Views Iran as Major Threat

TA0403141793 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Mar 93 p B1

[Commentary by Aluf Ben: "A New Enemy in the Region"]

[Text] Iran's military buildup and nuclear ambitions have wrought a profound change in Israel's security concept. For the first time since 1948 Israel is facing a new threat to its existence. The large armies of the neighboring countries seem less dangerous than a remote country that is striving to attain regional hegemony by means of nuclear power, terror, and Islamic fundamentalism.

Israel's traditional security concept was based on the expeditious transfer of war to enemy territory and on defeating it by land power. This concept is irrelevant to the nuclear threat. Israel cannot defeat Iran on land and cannot harm it by conventional weapons such as tanks and planes. Even if Israeli planes reach Tehran and drop conventional bombs on it, the damage would be minimal: During the eight-year war against Iraq, Iranian cities withstood massive bombardment without any effective air defense.

The recognition of the Iranian threat calls for a reassessment of the components of Israeli power. Last year Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq spoke of the three main elements of Israeli security: The IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] conventional power, nonconventional deterrence ("of which the Arabs are fully cognizant"), and the special relations with the United States. To this list we should add a fourth element: Peace and arms control arrangements with neighboring countries. The peace agreement with Egypt strengthened Israel's security much more than another armored division or an F-16 squadron.

Against Iran Israel will depend less on the IDF's conventional power than on the other elements of its national security: Deterrence provided by nuclear weapons and long-range missiles, which Iran believes Israel to possess, and increased cooperation with the United States and neighboring countries.

The Gulf war constituted the first test of this new security concept. In face of the Iraqi threat the IDF remained in its bases, because the political echelon preferred to rely on deterrence and on political and military coordination with the United States, and also indirectly with the Arab members of the coalition.

The processes we have witnessed since this war indicate that the new concept is gaining ground with the decision makers. In the conventional sphere, the IDF has worked out a multiyear plan centering on its ability to destroy many targets at long range and with minimal losses, at the same time downplaying the importance of the maneuverability of large ground forces. On the basis of this plan the IDF is purchasing more planes, helicopter gunships, and precision-guided munitions, rather than tanks, which are aimed at quickly transferring the war to enemy territory. The IDF believes that the continuation of the arms race is vital for convincing the Arabs that the option of war is no longer viable. The Army's new character indicates that Israel is now preparing for a defensive war and will lay the stress on the annihilation of forces rather than on conquering territory. This new concept undoubtedly includes a calming message to neighboring countries.

In the nonconventional sphere, Israeli leaders have not repeated the oft mentioned declaration that Israel will not be the first one to introduce nuclear weapons to the region. Today the government is saying, to quote Yitzhaq Rabin, that "Israel has long been prepared to confront the nuclear weapons danger in the Middle East," and is willing to talk with its neighbors on disarming the region of mass destruction weapons and on mutual arms control.

The military ties with the United States—which were concealed in the past—one month ago received formal recognition in a law passed by the Knesset granting U.S. soldiers in Israel special rights. The strategic agreement signed in 1983, which created a mechanism for bilateral military coordination, was implemented during the Gulf War and in the recent confrontation between the United States and Iraq. Already the outgoing U.S. Administration promised to deepen this cooperation.

Israel will not be able to confront the long-range threats without U.S. protection, but there is a price for this. Bilateral coordination is a two-way street. The United States has informed Israel of its intention to strike at Iraq. But just as during the Gulf War, in future, too, Israel will have to accept a restriction on its freedom of action in any military action going beyond routine security incidents in the territories and Lebanon.

More than everything else, however, the Iranian threat opens up unprecedented vistas for security cooperation between Israel and its Arab neighbors. Israel and Egypt have publicly declared that Iran constitutes the main threat to their security. Other Arab countries are struggling against the fundamentalist wave, and this is taking place just two years after standing on Israel's side against Iraq. The common threat has facilitated the peace process as well as arms control talks. Turkey, which is struggling against Islamic subversiveness and vying against Iranian influence in the CIS, has also tightened its relations with Israel.

U.S. experts who have good connections in Iran say that Tehran regards Middle East developments in much the same way. The statement issued by Air Force Commander Herzl Budinger in relation to the Iranian threat, namely that the Israeli Air Force can operate at a great distance, caused anger in Tehran. Iran, however, is more concerned about Turkey's buildup, the U.S. presence in the Gulf countries and Iraq's recovery.

The Iranians regard Israel mainly as a political threat. They are concerned about what appears to be an Israeli-Egyptian attempt to drag the United States into a second "Desert Storm," which would be the ruin of their country. They are also wary of the formation of a secular Arab bloc around Israel, which would combat Iran and Islamic fundamentalism. These fears go a long way toward explaining why Iran is trying to foil the peace process.

Withdrawal, Economic Union With Territories Urged

TA0403161693 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Mar 93 p B1

[Editorial: "No Separate Solution for Gaza"]

[Text] Natan 'Azarya and Gregory Abramov were murdered in Tel Aviv by a Gazan youth who had outfitted himself with two knives with the objective of killing "as many Jews as possible"; Yehoshu'a Weissbrod was murdered in Rafah, where he was stoned and shot to death. These three men are the newest link in the long chain of victims of terror conceived in the Gaza Strip. The carnage of the recent days has again brought up the question of whether the State of Israel would not be better off "dissociating itself" from this territory, which has brought us nothing but trouble throughout the occupation. There are ministers whose reply to this question is affirmative.

All those who second this opinion should be told that our hold in the Gaza Strip is not the only thing that should end, that it is in our best interest to relinquish most of the territories the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] conquered during the Six-Day War. However, due to its special characteristics, the Gaza Strip cannot exist independently. We took the Strip in the course of the Sinai Campaign, but we abandoned it under the united pressure of the United States and the Soviet Union, a fact which we have never regretted. Unlike the events of 1957, Egypt will be unlikely to accept Gaza today; Israel is forced to solve the problem alone. Those who believe we can be rid of the Gaza trouble by passing it on to the United Nations are deluded.

The political context links the Gaza Strip with the West Bank. These two Arab-populated districts of Eretz Yisra'el cannot blend into the State of Israel, and the nationalistic movement of the Arab-Palestinian nation is against separating them. Despite the major differences between them, they form one block. Local residents envisage a joint future, and our only hope to be rid of the troubles brought on by the Gaza Strip is our willingness to relinquish control over both areas, subject to arrangements guaranteeing Israel's safety.

The political process launched by the Madrid conference indicates a way toward that goal. The Palestinian delegation is the interlocutor with whom Israel should strive to achieve a first-phase agreement on the nature of autonomy as an interim arrangement, and a permanent arrangement afterward. Israel cannot exit the Gaza Strip without knowing who will rule it, and the only chance for a stable Palestinian rule replacing ours lies in an agreement with the Palestinian delegation with which our representatives are due to meet for bilateral talks.

A bolder policy could have resulted in an agreement during the past year; a more calculated policy would have prevented the creation of an obstacle on the path to an agreement through the deportation of 415 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists. The obstacle is still there, and the government needs to make a serious effort in disposing of it in the coming weeks.

We go to a lot of trouble, in vain, reminding the world that the Eretz Yisra'el Arabs rejected their chance to establish a state of their own at the end of the British mandate; but we made a fatal mistake when we decided after the Six-Day War victory that we had the right to revoke our consent to the partition of this land, which we had pledged in 1947. We must start believing again that the two nations can live in peace in the same house, provided each has its own apartment.

The Israeli economy has grown accustomed to the availability of Palestinian labor, and the Palestinians need the income they make in jobs in Israel. We must not forget that the UN Assembly, which decided on the establishment of two states—a Jewish and an Arab one—anticipated that they would forge an economic union; a political solution satisfying the national needs of both nations can be attained without severing the economic ties between them.

This twofold goal should be the object of the government's diplomatic effort. Until it is achieved, we will be unable to rid ourselves unilaterally from the Gaza burden; it is vital that we do not again lose time, as we did in the past 14 months.

Further Reaction to U.S. Warning on Terrorism

Information Minister Comments

JN0503071793 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 4 Mar 93

[From the "News at Ten"]

[Text] Jordan has expressed astonishment at a U.S. State Department statement warning Americans against travel to Jordan for fear of what was described as terrorist threats. Yesterday, Information Minister Mahmud al-Sharif said he was puzzled by the statement, adding that Jordan was one of the safest places in the region. The Public Security Department [PSD] expressed shock at the statement, saying it was inaccurate. More with Maha al-Sha'ir.

[Begin recording] [Al-Sha'ir] Jordanian officials expressed astonishment at the U.S. State Department announcement warning American nationals against what it described as terrorist threats in the Kingdom.

[Dr. Sabri Rubayhat, PSD officer] We are very surprised and shocked because we thought this is extremely inaccurate.

[Al-Sha'ir] PSD officials asserted tourists and residents in the country need not be afraid, stressing that Jordan is absolutely one of the safest places in the region.

[Rubayhat] I think Jordan would, you know, with due respect to the assessment of other people, is one of the most stable countries in the whole world. We've been through difficult times two decades ago, 10 years ago, but such warning never issued, and I'm surprised that they issued such a warning at this time.

[Al-Sha'ir] At present there is a large number of tourists from different parts of the world who are visiting Jordan. They say from their experience that Jordan is quite a safe place.

[Unidentified tourist] We're from Scotland and have been in Jordan for the past five days, staying in Amman and we're going on to Petra tomorrow.

[Al-Sha'ir] And do you feel it is a safe place as a tourist?

[Tourist] Well, I think it is a very safe place, absolutely yes.

[Second unidentified tourist] I've been walking in the city for two to three days for the afternoons and wandering all the back streets and no problems whatsoever.

[Al-Sha'ir] There was a warning two days ago in the newspapers that maybe Jordan is not safe for tourists. Do you agree with that?

[Third unidentified tourist] Not from our experience. We walked to the souk yesterday when all the crowds were out to the shops, and perfectly safe.

[Al-Sha'ir] The Minister of Information Mahmud al-Sharif was quoted as saying the statement was puzzling and that he saw no reason for it. Jordanians also believe the warning was completely unjustified, especially at this point of time following the visit of Secretary of State Warren Christopher to Jordan, which signalled the start of renewing bilateral relations and friendship. In an interview last week, the American ambassador to Jordan said there was a mutual understanding and good bilateral relations between the two countries. Now, however, the American Embassy in Amman said they had no comment to make regarding this warning.

Jordanians still don't understand the motive behind the State Department warning, especially that Jordan throughout the decades proved to be the most secure, safe, and peaceful place in this region. [end recording]

Weekly Views 'U.S. Conspiracy'

JN0403162493 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 4 Mar 93 pp 1, 18

[Text] Amman—AKHBAR AL-USBU' has received a report from Washington affirming that the U.S. Administration has been involved in a suspect operation apparently targeting Jordan's national security and that this operation is the beginning of a malicious U.S. conspiracy against Jordan's political stability and social security concocted by influential U.S. and Zionist circles which harbor grudges against Jordan and its democratic achievements.

The report reads: The U.S. State Department's warning to its nationals in Jordan against the threat of terrorist operations by Islamic fundamentalist groups is a link in a U.S. conspiracy against Jordan. The first phase of this conspiracy aims to distort Jordan's beautiful civilized image and cast doubt on the ability of Jordan's security organs to protect foreign nationals. As a consequence, the conspiracy seeks to shake the Jordanian regime's image and depict it as weak, paving the way for another phase whose implementation date has thus far not been set. The report adds: There are influential circles in the U.S. Administration eager to harm Jordan, which has begun to realize important political achievements on the international level—achievements which used to be confined to Israel—and that it is high time to settle accounts with Jordan due to its pan-Arab and nationalist stands.

The report notes that the lecture which U.S. Ambassador in Amman Roger Harrison gave at the World Affairs Council in Amman on 17 February has evoked the anti-Jordan lobby in the U.S. State Department and prompted it to reply to this lecture. The advisory warning U.S. nationals against terrorist threats in Jordan was a serious development and a slander against Jordan's national political security. The U.S. ambassador in Amman conveyed to His Majesty King Husayn, and the Jordanian people, President Clinton's support and encouragement for the development and progress which Jordan has achieved in its democratic march. The ambassador said: Under critical world circumstances, Jordan has managed to maintain its commitment to expanding participation in its political system, to providing the freedom of expression, and to respecting human and minority rights. He added: Jordan will create for itself a stable basis for peace and prosperity, in terms of progress in respecting individuals' values and human rights, protecting the rights of minorities, as well as participation in government, the resistance of extremism, and the rejection of terrorism. Concluding his lecture, Ambassador Harrison said: For years, people around the world have thought of only one democracy in the Middle East. It is time to take another look.

U.S. State Department sources said that the Department's anti-Jordan, pro-Israel lobby is still fighting against the release of $35 million in frozen U.S. military aid to Jordan and against supplying Jordan with arms. This lobby also tried to prevent the U.S. Agriculture Department from supplying Jordan with a shipment of American wheat. It almost succeeded when it leaked a report published in the Amman press that the U.S. Agriculture Department refused to supply Jordan with wheat. However, urgent contacts held at the highest levels between the Jordanian and U.S. Governments foiled the conspiracy, which was scheduled to begin a few weeks ago and not yesterday.

It seems that the U.S. secretary of state carried with him to Jordan, during his recent tour of the Middle East, some of the ideas of the hostile lobby. He did not extend an invitation to His Majesty King Husayn to visit Washington, but he extended such invitations to other leaders. In the course of his answers to reporters, he also stressed that Washington will not resume full aid to Jordan, noting that what is being applied in Jordan is natural and high values that do not merit support.

In contacts and interviews conducted by AKHBAR AL-USBU', a number of U.S. citizens in Jordan expressed astonishment and denounced the U.S. State Department's statement. They were unanimous in their belief that no American in Jordan has been exposed to any attack on his life or his property, that Amman is safer than Washington, that the Jordanian people are known for their hospitality, friendship, and strong ties with Americans in Jordan, and that there are strong ties of friendship between the American and Jordanian people. They added that there is a special school for the Americans in Amman, that there is not a single policeman at the gate of this school, and that the American managers of the school did not ask for any guard for its buildings or students. This confirms that Americans in Jordan live in peace and security.

The American citizens also said: The existence of some free criminals in the capital is not something out of the ordinary because there are free criminals throughout the world. Besides, the ugliness and number of crimes in Washington are hundreds of times higher than they are in Amman.

The popular organizations in Amman strongly denounced and disapproved of the U.S. statement. They also called on American organizations to visit Jordan to see the false American fabrications, which are seen as a kind of pressure exerted in hopes of changing Jordan's national stands.

Representatives of these popular organizations noted that crime rates in the United States have reached record levels. However, we have not heard any state warning its nationals to observe caution or not to travel Washington, which has the highest crime rate in the world, or not to travel to New York, where a large explosion took place a few days ago injuring 1,015 people and killing five. Also, Kuwait now has a terrorist atmosphere under which people are lynched and the situation at night is similar to that of Saigon during the Vietnam war.

The representatives of these organization have affirmed, moreover, that Jordanians were very angry with those who planned the New York explosion and expressed sympathy with the victims, because they reject civil violence, despite all U.S. grudges against Jordan, the most recent being the present position which targets the sanctity of Jordan's security and the homeland.

Jordanians believe that the Zionist lobby, which is leading a conspiracy against Jordan after it was alarmed by its democratic approach, will not be able to continue its conspiracy.

Leaders of several Islamic movements in Jordan have also deplored U.S. claims that they will be the cat's-paw to carry out terrorist acts. They stressed that Islam renounces terrorism and that labeling Islamists as terrorists is a new U.S. fabrication in the region, after it managed to abort Arab nationalism. It is now the Muslims' turn, but this method is unacceptable and deplorable.

King Makes Donation to West Bank Awqaf Workers

JN0403180693 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn donated from his own account 1.405.589 million Jordanian dinars as a personal contribution in improving the conditions of al-awqaf personnel working in the West Bank. His majesty's generous donation covered all categories of staff serving in al-Awqaf Department in the West bank.

The chairman and members of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Council in the West Bank sent a telegram to his majesty expressing their thanks and appreciation for his generous donation.

Defense Minister Discusses Christopher Visit

NC0503075393 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has said that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to and talks with Lebanese officials at al-Yarzah [Defense Ministry] reflects the U.S. Administration's confidence in the military establishment.

Dallul disclosed that during his visit, Christopher asked why Lebanon does not approve of the formation of a joint Lebanese-Israeli committee. My response, Dallul said, was that the issue is the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425. If what is required is defining a mechanism for its implementation, the issue can be discussed. But if the committee is meant to discuss other issues, that is out of the question.

Dallul said the redeployment of Syrian forces hinges on Lebanon's ability to provide security, not anything else.

Minister on Domestic Issues, Christopher Visit

NC0303134193 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1000 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Excerpts] Walid Junblatt, minister of state for refugee affairs, who is currently visiting Paris, told Lebanese journalists there that the Lebanese economy remains bad; the country needs funds. He said he was optimistic about Lebanon's future, because the plan to partition the country is over. He described al-Ta'if Accord as a steamroller [mihdalah]. [passage omitted]

On Lebanese refugees, Junblatt said that the return of Christians to Jabal Lubnan is not an isolated issue; there is also the return of Muslims to al-Nab'ah, al-Karantina, Sinn al-Fil, and other areas. He said the more funds we get, the faster we rebuild Jabal Lubnan. Things are going well, especially as the plan to partition Jabal Lubnan was foiled.

On Lebanon's future in the region following Israeli signs of a possible agreement to cede the Golan Heights, Junblatt said that the best guarantee for Lebanon if peace with Israel is achieved is to further cement ties with Syria on the political, economic, and security levels, because Damascus can protect us in the face of peace with Israel. He said: I believe that if the Golan is restored, this would be a great gain. Anyone who thinks that Syria is weaker following the collapse of its ally the Soviet Union may be right to some extent. But Syria remains strong. Should an all-out war erupt between Syria and Israel, the destruction that would be inflicted on the Hebrew state would be very considerable, because each country has weapons capable of destroying the another. Thus, he added, there is much for Israel to consider before launching such a war. Therefore, our guarantee is Damascus. Together we must improve our conditions for a settlement, he said, adding that we tried settlement alone, when [former President] Amin al-Jumayyil dragged us into one, and the damage was great.

Assessing U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region and Lebanon, Junblatt said they [not further identified] still disagree over whether he mentioned Security Council Resolution 425. Ask this of Lebanese officials in Beirut, he said, adding that the Americans are trying to apply pressure for a settlement on the eastern front. He said: I emphasize the need for Lebanon to coordinate its position with Syria to face peace with our own conditions, because the Israelis will not give us back the Golan without a quid pro quo. We must avoid such a thing as normalizing economic and political relations.

Gambian Minister Meets al-Hirawi, al-Hariri

NC0403102993 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1000 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi this morning received Gambian Foreign Minister Oman Sey, who conveyed a message from the Gambian president. The Gambian minister also met with Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri.

In a statement, Sey emphasized his country's support for the implementation of Resolutions 425 and 799. He expressed his appreciation for the ongoing efforts to restore peace in Lebanon.

Islamic Resistance Group Attacks Lahd Patrol

NC0503082393 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] Yesterday afternoon, an Islamic resistance group under the name the Martyr Hasan Nasrallah group ambushed a Lahdist patrol on the Sujud-al-Rayhan road. This act came during blessed Ramadan, as they remembered the death of the mother of believers, great Khadijah [Prophet Muhammad's first wife], God's peace and blessings be upon her, and their commitment to eliminating the Zionist enemy. The heroic mujahidin attacked the patrol with machine-gun fire and a hail of artillery shells, destroying an MU-13 troop carrier. Four Lahdist men were killed and the rest of the patrol men wounded.

At the same time, Islamic resistance artillery shelled Sujud and scored a direct hit. Enemy radio admitted the operation took place, but claimed no patrol members were hurt.

Afghanistan

Kabul, Hekmatyar Deny Restarting Hostilities

BK0503103493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1024 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] Kabul, March 5 (AFP)—Fighting between rival mojahedin factions broke out overnight Thursday, leaving at least one dead and five injured, mojahedin commanders at the front said.

The renewed fighting came after intense peace talks in Pakistan between rival factions were adjourned after four days without full agreement.

Rocket and artillery fire, which began in the evening, lasted six hours, finishing in the early morning. Hostilities centred around key areas of Kabul—the southern Chelsitoon area, around the vacated Russian Embassy in the west, and eastern Pul-i-Charki.

Commander Mirza, head of government forces in the south was shot in the leg and hospitalised.

Government forces and Hezb-e Eslami, the rebel faction of Golboddin Hekmatyar, both denied responsibility for the renewal of hostilities after a day of calm Thursday.

Midday Friday, roads to Chelsitoon were practically deserted.

Hamid Gul, former head of Pakistan's secret service, leading a peace mission in Kabul, said "certain groups did not wish to reach an agreement," without specifying which groups he meant.

He said he remained optimistic about the peace talks in Islamabad, which were adjourned Friday, the Moslem holy day and are expected to resume Saturday.

Most of the participants agreed to allow President Borhanoddin Rabbani to retain his post for a further 18 months, with his arch rival Hekmatyar as prime minister.

Negotiations stalled over the distribution of ministerial portfolios between the various factions.

Fighting Resumes; Hezb-e Wahdat Forces Repulsed

LD0503113793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] Following a few days of peace, the city of Kabul was once again the scene of heavy clashes between the government and Hezb-e Eslami and Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami forces.

The clashes began yesterday evening, with light artillery fire at first. Heavy weapons were then fired at residential areas of the city.

According to a report by our Kabul correspondent, news sources at the Afghan Defense Ministry have said that the aggression by Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami infantrymen in the Dasht-e Barchi area has been repulsed and those forces forced to retreat. The same sources stated that one member of the government forces was killed and eight were wounded.

Government, Hezb-e Wahdat Hold Talks

LD0503120493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] Thanks to the efforts of the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kabul, representatives of the Afghan Government and the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami have held face-to-face talks at our country's embassy in Kabul.

During the talks, our country's charge d'affaires first expressed the hope that both sides would endeavor to solve the problems which exist between the government and Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami and that a permanent cease-fire would be established between them.

The talks focused on ways of securing a cease-fire, selecting a delegation to supervise the cease-fire, eliminating the causes of the war and clashes, and ensuring free movement for people in various parts of the city.

The latest report which we have received indicates that a joint supervisory committee has already begun its supervision of an unofficial cease-fire in Kabul. General Hamid Gul, the former head of Pakistan's intelligence [estekhbarat], who is in Kabul to mediate between the warring sides, is the head of the cease-fire supervisory committee.

Kabul 'Relatively Calm;' Coup Rumors Denied

BK0403131693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1306 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Kabul, March 4 (AFP)—The Afghan capital was relatively calm Thursday amid optimism about Pakistan-sponsored peace talks between rival leaders in Islamabad.

Kabul's central Polo Khisti Mosque and the main bazaar, which on Sunday was the target of an artillery attack that killed 80 people and injured 70, was crowded as Kabul residents went about their everyday activities.

The majority of the mojahedin factions meeting in the Pakistan capital Thursday agreed that President Borhanoddin Rabbani would remain in office for the next 18 months, while his main rival, Golboddin Hekmatyar, would be premier, Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said. Peace was "very close", he said.

Meanwhile, in Microrayon, nort-east of Kabul, procommunist groups have been staging demonstrations of 200 to 300 people, with some calling for the restoration of former president Najibollah, who has been sheltering at the United Nations' base in the capital since the communist regime fell in April.

Rumours of a coup were denied by a high-ranking official of the Defense Ministry.

Pakistani Mediator on Cease-Fire Committee

LD0403184393 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] General Hamid Gul, a retired Pakistani general who is engaged in efforts to ensure an unofficial cease-fire between the Islamic State of Afghanistan and its opposition, said today that during the last two days, a joint commission has begun operating with the participation of all sides involved in the fighting. Two people from the Islamic State of Afghanistan, two members of Hekmatyar's Islamic Party of Afghanistan [Hezb-e Eslami], and two members of the Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan [Hezb-e Wahdat Eslami] are included in this commission.

The commission has been formed to observe the unofficial cease- fire and will operate under the supervision of General Hamid Gul himself. A delegation will be appointed soon to supervise the command points, regions, and positions of both sides. If any side violates the cease-fire, the delegation will be able to identify them.

Mas'ud's Reported Plans for New War Condemned

LD0403142493 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Excerpt] Messages condemning the recent utterances by the so- called defense minister have arrived from mojahedin. The messages say that Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, so-called defense minister of the coalition administration, said he is preparing for a new war. All personnel and staff of Kabul's western and eastern fronts and mojahedin will stand with courage to put out the fire of his rebellion and put the aggressors in their place in a manner we did in the past. The seditious coalitionist is bent on once again burning our compatriots, in particular the citizens of Kabul, in another bloody war. However, their sinister aim will never be achieved. We assure our whole mojahed nation that the mojahedin are in control of the situation and [words indistinct].

Peace be upon you.

[Signed] The mojahedin and responsible officials of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan [Hezb-e Eslami-e Afghanistan] in Kabul's eastern and western fronts. [passage omitted]

Hekmatyar Says Rabbani Wants War To Continue

PM0103160193 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 26 Feb 93 pp 1, 4

[Interview by radio with Afghan Hezb-e Eslami leader Golboddin Hekmatyar in (Chahar Asiab), south of Kabul, by Ahmad Muwaffaq Zaydan in Peshawar; date not given]

[Text] [Zaydan] President Rabbani said last Tuesday that the Hezb-e Eslami has two options: surrender or be eliminated completely from Kabul.

[Hekmatyar] Rabbani is making these statements while he continues to negotiate and send one delegation after another. I do not think he wants any accord to be established. He wants the war to continue and does not wish to solve the problems peacefully.

[Zaydan] What was the proposal which you submitted to the Arab-Pakistani mediation committee?

[Hekmatyar] We submitted our proposals to the delegation for solving the outstanding problems. But the other side's position is not clear. It wants to solve the problem through another delegation.

[Zaydan] What is the delegation through which they want to resolve the issue?

[Hekmatyar] They insist on holding negotiations outside Afghanistan in which governments would participate, not through Judge Husayn Ahmad (leader of the Jama'at-e Eslami-e Pakistan). This is their position. And as you know, they contacted UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali and U.S. representative in Afghanistan Peter Thompson several times and tried to seek help from them. But the United States set a condition for providing help, namely the appointment of Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani as prime minister. The government in Kabul is prepared to accept the U.S. conditions. And Rabbani told some members of his party's Executive Committee that the United States wants Gaylani to be appointed prime minister.

[Zaydan] What about the convening of an international conference in which the United Nations, the Security Council, jihad organizations, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Pakistan, and Germany or Helsinki would participate?

[Hekmatyar] Regrettably, that is what Borhanoddin Rabbani wants. But we want the issue to be resolved within the Afghan framework and on Afghan territory. And we will not allow any international intervention in Afghanistan.

[Zaydan] But you agreed to Pakistani-Arab mediation?

[Hekmatyar] Yes, we agreed. We would go to Islamabad or elsewhere if the other party agrees, because it did not agree to negotiations in Afghanistan.

[Zaydan] What about negotiations in Islamabad?

[Hekmatyar] Pakistani officials proposed that a meeting be held in Islamabad and attended by jihad leaders. We are willing to take part if the other party agrees and if all our prior conditions are met, that is, Rabbani's relinquishment of power, the formation of a provisional government acceptable to all mojahedin parties, and the holding of general elections in less than a year.

[Zaydan] U.S. commandos arrived in Pakistan recently in an attempt said to be designed to get rid of you. What is your information in this regard?

[Hekmatyar] According to our information, they came for me. They (the Americans) thought that the Hezb-e Eslami-e was advancing toward Kabul and could capture it, which is why they sent the commandos. And we intercepted communications between the Jamiat-e (Eslami) and the commandos and between the Rabbani government and the commandos concerning getting rid of me.

[Zaydan] For how long will Afghanistan live under the war of nerves and the game of waiting?

[Hekmatyar] We do not want war. We want the problem to be solved peacefully and quickly. But they imposed the war on us and declared the launch of an all-out offensive on the Hezb-e Eslami forces. The responsibility for this war lies on those who waged it. We are in a self-defense phase. They have now realized that it is not easy to attack the party's positions. And they have failed to capture any position. Actually we have captured positions inside Kabul.

[Zaydan] What about your alliance with the Shiite Unity Party?

[Hekmatyar] As you know, it was the coalition administration in Kabul which began the attack on the party's positions and then launched its attack on the Unity Party. We did not begin the attack, nor is there a political or military alliance between us and them (the Unity Party).

[Zaydan] What about your relations with the (Uzbek) militias and their neutrality in the recent war?

[Hekmatyar] The militias are with the government and inside Kabul. Rabbani offered them the post of defense minister, and the government accepted all the militias' conditions. Every day Rabbani sends delegations to Baghlan, representative of the Isma'ili militias [as published], and Mazar-e Sharif, seeking help from Ja'far Naderi and (General Abdorrashid) Dostum. And the government always declares that the Unity Party is its major ally. Until now the Iranian ambassador in Kabul is still mediating between the two sides to persuade the Unity Party to join the government.

[Zaydan] What about the statements made recently by (Ettihadi-e Eslami leader) Aborrasul Sayyaf in which he vehemently attacked you?

[Hekmatyar] Sayyaf is nominated for prime minister and wants to prove to the Jamiat-e (Eslami) and Rabbani that he is loyal to them, and the way to do that is to attack the Hezb-e (Eslami). And as is known, Sayyaf is a partner in the coalition government, which includes a large number of communist generals. And he was a member of the Jamiat and then returned to his party.

[Zaydan] What are the legitimate justifications for your fight against the government in Kabul?

[Hekmatyar] They launch their attacks and we defend ourselves. Every Muslim is entitled to defend himself, even if some of his money is taken from him. And if he falls in the fighting, he is a martyr, and the aggressor is the one responsible.

The government in Kabul wants to impose itself on the people by force through international conspiracies and by supporting the communists. While we defend ourselves the government openly announces its responsibility for launching the attacks on Muslim mojahedin.

[Zaydan] How would you assess present Iranian and Pakistan policy?

[Hekmatyar] Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ala'-al-Din Barjurdi [as transliterated] visited Kabul for two weeks and did not meet with me. And to date I have not met with the Iranian ambassador. They are trying to bring the government and the Unity Party closer. As for Pakistan, it is trying to gather the parties in Islamabad to solve the problem.

* Ettehad-e Eslami: Iran Financing Assassination

93P50081A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 28 Feb 93 p 4

[Report by 'Abdallah al-Hajj]

[Excerpt] Jeddah—In Jeddah yesterday, sources of the Afghan Ettehad-e Eslami (led by 'Abd-Rabb Rasul Sayyaf) charged the Iranians with financing a plan to carry out a series of assassinations against a number of Afghan mojahedin. The sources told AL-HAYAH that information available to them confirms that radical Hezb-e Eslami leader Golboddin Hekmatyar—who is opposed to President Borhanoddin Rabbani—has formed a "terrorist group" in cooperation with 'Abdol-'Ali Mazari, the leader of the Hezb-e Wahdat, which is loyal to Iran.

They added that the mission of this group is to assassinate a number of mojahedin commanders and that Iran has offered $10 million in financial support to them and has stated its readiness to support the group with men and materiel. This comes on the heels of a charge by Hekmatyar that the Afghan president is involved in a U.S. plan to liquidate him.

The same sources talked about what they described as the "exclusion complex" of Hekmatyar, "whose failures to achieve power drive him to alliances with the Hezb-e

Wahdat, the Uzbek militias led by 'Abdol-Rashid Dostam, and the Khalq faction of the formerly ruling Communist Party.

Dr. Nasir Ahmad Nur, the representative of the Jam'iyat-e Eslami (headed by Rabbani), in Saudi Arabia denied in a statement to AL-HAYAH that Hekmatyar's forces and the Hezb-e Wahdat had advanced toward Kabul in their current continual fighting. He considered the news to have no basis in fact and charged the Hezb-e Eslami with violating the unilateral cease-fire announced by the government of President Rabbani. He said that the two forces had launched attacks on the southern and southwestern suburbs of the capital, Kabul, "but the government forces stopped them and forced the attackers to return to where they came from."

Dr. Nasir Ahmad said that the Afghan Defense Ministry had announced that it was continuing the unilateral cease-fire and that it was only returning the fire of the "aggressors" if they attacked its positions. [passage omitted]

Bangladesh

Tribal Refugees Die of Starvation in India

BK0303142293 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 7 Feb 93 p 1

[Text] Khagrachhari, Feb. 6—Some 125 homesick tribals have returned from 6 refugee camps in the northeastern Indian state of Tripura by evading Shantibahini vigilance in a fortnight, officials said, says UNB [United News of Bangladesh].

With them, they said, 224 tribal refugees of 82 families returned home to escape fatal diseases and starvation during the last one month. The number of returnees rose to 515 since the first round of talks between the government and the tribal insurgents toward solution of the Chittagong Hill Tracts problems on November 5 last year.

Starvation and a cold wave have claimed 30 and 35 lives respectively since January 1, said Sumati Tripura 40, who fled Kathallchhari refugee camp along with his family members and came back here Friday.

Until restoration of supply of ration to the camp dwellers on January 25, some 30 inmates have died of starvation, he said. The provincial government of Tripura on the direction from central government of India stopped ration to the tribal refugees from January 1.

After the suspension of ration supply to the camp dwellers, some 5,000 hapless refugees left the camps for adjoining localities to earn their bread for mere survival, said Sambita Tripura, 30, who came back in a group of 27 on January 31.

Till the morning sunshine since sundown, inmates of the refugee camps in Tripura had escaped the bite of coldwave by burning bushes and firewood, as they did not have warm clothes and blankets. "Moreover, we were living in dilapidated huts built some six years ago for us", Sambita told UNB while narrating the misery of camp life in exile.

The homesick tribals in all the six refugee camps are desperately awaiting repatriation to escape an uncertain future in view of the reality, starvation, and fatal diseases, officials quoted the returnees to have said.

But with the restoration of ration supply, the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) and the Shantibahini outlaws have tightened security in and around the camps to prevent the tribals from returning home. They even do not permit any inmate to go out of the camps by evening or at night, the returnees also told the officials.

Necessary arrangements have already been made for resettlement of the returnees in their abandoned homes and hearth with requisite financial supports, said Samiran Dewan, chairman of the Local Government Council.

Meanwhile, the third round of the government-insurgent dialogue is likely to be held sometime this month, the concerned liaison committee sources said.

Dhaka Recognizes New Czech, Slovak Republics

BK0303152493 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Text] Bangladesh has extended recognition to the newly formed Czech Republic today and has decided to set up full diplomatic ties with it. The former Czechoslovakia in Eastern Europe split into two separate states of Czech and Slovak. People of these two states declared their independence in a peaceful manner.

The Foreign Ministry in Dhaka has said that the Bangladesh government hopes that as an independent country, the Czech Republic will contribute to the establishment of peace and stability in the region and the world.

Bangladesh has also recognized the Slovak Republic and has decided to establish full diplomatic ties with it. The Foreign Ministry in Dhaka has said that the Bangladesh Government is hopeful that the Slovak Republic will contribute to the establishment of peace and stability in the region and the world.

Tribal Insurgents Kill 132 People

BK0403102293 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 9 Feb 93 p 9

[Text] Rangamati, Feb. 6—At least 132 people were killed, 400 others injured, and 500 abducted in different parts of the district by the outlawed Shanti Bahini during the last year, officials said, the victims include both tribals and non-tribals, reports UNB [UNITED NEWS OF BANGLADESH].

Of the dead, nine bamboo-cutters of Karnaphuli Paper Mills were gunned down in a brush fire while they were cutting bamboo at Farua under Belaichhari thana [police station] on January 2 last year.

On January 6, a man was killed during exchange of fire between the insurgents and security forces in Dighinala of Khagrachhari district.

The Shanti Bahini killed six people including a forest officer in Fatikchhari on January 11.

Fourteen people were killed and 12 others injured in the explosion of a high-powered time bomb planted on ML [motor launch] Akhtar in Mahilla of Langadu thana on February 2.

On February 26, six people were burnt alive and seven houses were set ablaze by the outlawed insurgents at Nagar Ali Tila of the same thana.

Two insurgents were killed on March 4, and four others on March 30 during exchange fire in Manikchhari thana of Khagrachhari and in Zurachhari of Rangamati hill districts.

Six construction workers died on the spot RKMM near Rangamati on April 6, and 11 people were killed and nine others injured in Panchari thana of Khagrachhari hill district when the outlawed Shanti Bahini men opened fire on them.

Three people were killed on May 12 in Ramgarh thana of Khagrachhari hill district.

The Shanti Bahini insurgents gunned down four villagers including children in Langadu thana of Rangamati hill district on May 15. Ten people were killed in Panchhari and Dighinala thanas of the same district on May 20 and 25 respectively.

Besides, four people were killed and five others injured in Rangamati when the insurgents opened fire on them on May 30. The insurgents attacked and killed the sleeping villagers at dead of night, sources added.

Eight people were killed in Baghaichhari of Rangamati and Manikchhari of Khagrachhari hill districts by the tribal insurgents on June 5 and July 28.

Prior to the declaration of the unilateral ceasefire by the Parbatya Chattagram Jano Sanghati Samity, PCJSS, Shanti Bahini killed a man in Rangamati on August 28.

About 100 houses were set ablaze in Kawkhali, Baghaichhari, and Barkal thana of Rangamati and Panchhari, Ramgarh, and Manikchhari thana of Khagrachhari hill districts by the tribal insurgents during the same period.

More than 500 people were abducted and majority of them released on payment of ransom in 1992. Over a hundred people are still in the captivity of the tribal insurgents, officials and local leaders said.

During the so-called unilateral ceasefire of PCJSS, the tribal insurgents violated it for more than 26 times, the sources added.

Speaker Censures ITTEFAQ for 'Misreporting'

BK0403154493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1536 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Dhaka, March 4 (AFP)—Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali Thursday censured Dhaka's leading Bengali daily ITTEFAQ for alleged misreporting of a minister's speech in parliament, and failing to publish a correction.

Giving a ruling during Thursday's session, Ali expressed his "deep regret at distortion" by the paper of works minister Rafiqul Islam Miah's speech Tuesday on a controversial new luxury government residence in Dhaka, and asked ITTEFAQ to carry the news item correctly Friday.

Rejecting a report published Thursday by the daily in an apparent response to his earlier request, Ali, quoted by the BSS News Agency here, said it contained the same misquotation of the minister's speech.

The Speaker's request came after Miah complained Wednesday that the report contained words he did not say, and produced records from parliamentary proceedings to back his claim.

According to ITTEFAQ, during Tuesday's debate on the much- publicised residence which cost 66 million taka (1.7 million dollars) to build, more than double original estimates, Miah said: "Why (such allegations) only against my ministry, there are also other ministries."

A senior staffer at ITTEFAQ Thursday said the original report may have been a mistake, and said the paper would carry the report again as directed by the Speaker.

The luxury house was built for the vice president during the administration of deposed president Hossain Mohammad Ershad. Faulty planning and construction delays led to cost rises from 30 million (800,000 dollars) to 66 million taka.

The present government is considering using the building as a state guest house for visiting foreign dignitaries.

India

Pawar Seeks To Restore Confidence in Congress-I

BK0403144793 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Mr. Sharad Pawar, nominated as leader of the Maharashtra Congress-I Legislature Party, says that he will assume office on Saturday [6 March]. Talking to

UNI in New Delhi today before leaving for Bombay. Mr. Pawar said that he will form his ministry in two stages. He said some ministers will be sworn in along with him on Saturday and others will be inducted after the budget session of the State Assembly beginning on the 10th of this month. Mr. Sharad Pawar said that he will accord top priority to restoring the people's confidence in the Congress-I and reversing the downtrend in the state's economy following the recent disturbances in Bombay.

Pawar Formally Elected

BK0503085293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] In Maharashstra, the Congress-I legislature party has endorsed the nomination of Mr. Sharad Pawar as the chief minister of the state and formally elected him as their leader. A resolution to this effect was moved by the outgoing chief minister, Mr. Sudharkar Rao Naik, and was supported by the leader of the dissident group, Dr. Badan Singh Patil and others. Mr. A.K. Antony attended the meeting as the central observer. Union minister Mr. N.K.P. Salve and other Maharashtra MP's were present at the meeting. In his reply to the resolution electing him as the chief minister, Mr. Pawar said the top priority before him would be to restore communal harmony and instill confidence in the minds of the people.

Chavan on Pakistan TV 'Disinformation' Campaign

BK0503081493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, told the Rajya Sabha today that the government is fully aware of the kind of disinformation campaign being carried on by Pakistan against India through its TV network. Mr. Chavan was responding to the Janata Dal member, Mr. Dinesh Bhai Trivedi's, complaint raised during the zero hour that Islamabad is carrying on propaganda across the border through its television beamed to India which is misguiding the people in Kashmir. He wanted to know what action the government plans to counter this propaganda. Mr. Chavan said that this task has been entrusted to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to prepare special programs for countering the propaganda.

Minister Says No Change in Post-Ayodhya Investments

BK0503031093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] The minister of state for industries, Mrs. Krishna Sahi, says the post-Ayodhya developments have not affected the investment climate in the country. Addressing a news conference in New Delhi, she said that more than 8,000 memorandum of understanding have been signed for new ventures since liberalization of the economy.

Replying to a question, Mrs. Sahi said the proposed investment guarantee agreements with some countries are not meant for covering business failures. The minister said the third round of public sector disinvestment through an open auction involving 15 undertakings will take place on Wednesday [10 March]. The minimum bid amount has been reduced to 100,000 rupees from 250,000 in the earlier rounds for getting better offers. The minister said the government is not in favor of pumping more money into loss making PSU's [public sector undertakings].

Andhra Pradesh Field Begins Oil, Gas Production

BK0403074493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Commercial production of oil and associated gas has begun from the Rava oil field off the Narsapur coast in Andhra Pradesh. This was was announced by the minister of state for petroleum and natural gas, Mr. Satish Sharma, in the Lok Sabha today. He said two wells that commenced commercial production yesterday were the first of the oil wells to yield oil and gas from the eastern off shore. The Rava oil field is part of the Krishna- Godavari basin.

Answering supplementaries, the minister said that the government has taken a decision to set up a southern gas grid to augment the supply of gas to the four southern states.

'Collaborations' With Foreign Companies Approved

BK0403090493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] More than 2,200 collaborations with foreign companies were approved by the government during the period between August 1991 and January 1993. In a written answer in the Rajya Sabha, the minister of state for industries, Mrs. Krishna Sahi, said these included 929 cases of foreign equity participation involving an amount of 5,100 crore rupees.

Army Foils Kashmir Militants' Infiltration Try

BK0403155893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the Army has foiled another major infiltration bid by the Pakistan-trained militants in Rajaori sector Line of Control. Two militants were killed and one was arrested in the encounter last night in Mianka Panjganj area of the Line of Control. A large quantity of arms and ammunition and some incriminating documents were recovered from the scene of the encounter.

Minister on Privatization of Defense Units

BK0403161893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] The minister of state for defense, Mr. Mallikarjun, says that there is no move to privatize any of the eight defense public sector units. Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha today, he said the ministry instead is thinking of diversifying their products [word indistinct] and maximizing capacity utilization to meet the demands in the civil sector and in export markets.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 0950 GMT on 4 March adds: "India will manufacture 12 more warships with state of the art technology by the end of the century to modernise its Navy, defence officials announced here Thursday.

"Minister of State for Defence M. Mallikarjun told parliament the Navy's modernisation was 'a constant and ongoing development' based on India's 'threat perception, maritime interests ... and budgetary resources.'

"The Navy was in a state of preparedness 'to handle any exigency that may arise,' he said.

"Mallikarjun was answering an MP, who wanted to know the government's plans for the Navy's expansion following the collapse of the Soviet Union, which was India's main arms supplier.

"The Indian Navy, with some 52,000 personnel, is the fastest growing arm of the three defence wings. Its expansion has in recent years worried countries as far away as Australia."]

Tamil Nadu Seeks Singapore Investors

BK0403025493 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 23 Feb 93 p 14

[Text] Madras—The Tamil Nadu Government will begin negotiations with the Centre on the proposed trade corridor with Singapore in early April this year. The State Government, which has earmarked a 800 hectare plot at Sholingur near Madras to set up an industrial park for this purpose, proposes to initiate a dialogue with the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) and the Cabinet Committee on Foreign Investment (CCFI) "to evolve a unique set of liberal regulatory policies" for the project.

Government sources here say that among the special regulatory measures the State Government would press for are "investment protection for investors from Singapore, 100 per cent convertibility on export earnings and no duties on imported or domestic raw materials and capital goods".

"This industrial park should offer more than an Export Processing Zone (EPZ) and we hope that the Centre will agree with our proposals," the source said.

The State Government would also like the park, which it has called "Blue Chip Enclave", to act as a single window clearance in order to cut red tape in the functioning of the corridor. It hopes that "dedicated cells" of Central Government bodies such as the Customs and Excise departments will be located in the park to provide clearances quickly.

The concept of the proposed trade corridor was explained by state officials to a delegation from Singapore led by Minister for Information and Arts George Yeo on Monday. Mr Yeo, who called on Chief Minister Jayalalitha, had expressed hopes that the project would succeed. The State Government plans to initiate a more detailed dialogue with the Singapore Government on the corridor in April, when the final project report on the proposed trade corridor will be ready The project report is being prepared by Feedback Ventures and Communications, a New Delhi-based private consultancy agency. The agency has already submitted an interim report to the State Government.

State Government sources say that the proposed industrial park will focus on selected industries—such as food processing, textiles, garments, electronics and speciality chemicals. The thrust will be on exports to Singapore and elsewhere and the state's role will be largely limited to providing basic infrastructural facilities.

Among the proposed infrastructural facilities for the park are electricity generated from a captive private sector power plant, dedicated telecom facilities, arterial road connections to the park and priority in the use of facilities at Madras harbour. Moreover, residential, recreational, educational and hospital facilities are proposed to be built at the park.

The Tamil Nadu Government maintains that the rationale for the project lies in "the strategic advantages that Tamil Nadu can provide investors from Singapore with". "There is a severe constraint on land, lack of adequate manpower and relatively high wages in Singapore. Tamil Nadu is advantageously placed with regard to all three," the sources maintain.

The State Government hopes to complete the first phase of the industrial park—which includes the completion of infrastructural facilities—by January 1995. "We hope to be in a position to offer fully developed land to investors by then," said an official.

Strategy for Siachen Conflict Discussed

BK0303145193 Delhi INDIAN DEFENCE REVIEW in English Jan 93 pp 64-68

[Article by retired Brigadier Vijai K. Nair: "Siachen"]

[Text]

The Indian Position

Siachen appropriates extensive attention of the media. The general impression of Siachen hinges either on a romanticised notion of warriors defending the motherland against a treacherous and implacable enemy on the highest battlefield in the world, or on half-baked convictions that the Indian Government is following an ill considered policy to hold on to a strategically insignificant piece of real estate at unacceptable costs in fiscal and human resources. The truth is that neither of these sentiments can stand up to the logic of the ground realities of the political imbroglio that has characterised the Kashmir problem for the past 45 years.

There is a need to analyse the Siachen conflict in the overall context of the Indo-Pak dispute over Kashmir, Pakistan's long term strategies that are directed towards undermining the Indian position in the State to meet her ends and the efficacy of the Indian strategy in dealing with the situation.

Topographical Significance

Seen in its larger context, Siachen is essentially a glacial formation in an inconsequential part of the Sate of Jammu & Kashmir [J&K] tucked away in the obscure uninhabited Northern extremities. It forms part of the massive Karakoram Ranges that divide the Central Asian Republics and Tibet from the Indian subcontinent. At altitudes between 13,000 to 25,000 plus feet and snowbound the year round, its fundamental and only, material contribution lies in its water resources which feed the Nubra, Shyok and Indus Rivers.

The glacier originates from Indira Col and flows Southward approximately 70 kilometres to the source of the Nubra River. On its West it rests on the Saltoro Range over which three passes (Sia La, Bilafond La and Gyong La) permit North South movement to Pakistan held Baltistan. To the North lies the Shaksgam valley and Muztagh ranges while its Eastern limits are marked by the Stagtar group, Teram Kangri group, Teram Shehr group, Remo group and on to the Karakoram Pass along the Indo-Tibet border. To its South it dominates the Shyok River valley which flows East West to Skardu and Gilgit providing a reasonable good military approach into Ladakh. The total area covered is about 10,000 square kilometres.

Minimum temperatures range between minus 40 degrees Celsius in winter to minus 15 degrees in summer. The chill factor is considerably magnified by persistent high velocity winds. A major problem caused by the temperature variations is the glacial flow which creates unexpected convulsions resulting in crevasses that hinder movement on the glacier.

Siachen in itself is an area of extremes. It discounts normal human habitation by its unpredictable surface conditions, inhospitable climate and attenuated atmosphere. It has no relevance for direct use in terms of major military manoeuvres. However, its topographical significance lies in the circumstances of its position. They are:

—It is a substantial piece of Indian real estate. 10,000 square kilometres cannot be written off because of its inhospitable nature.

—It adjoins the Indo-Tibet border along the disputed Akshai Chin on one side, the illegally ceded Shaksgam valley by Pakistan to China to its North-West and the district of Gilgit of Jammu and Kashmir that has been forcibly occupied by Pakistan to the East.

—It achieves a singular distinction of being the only part of India that lies as the core between three major territorial disputes with two major regional powers.

—It dominates axes leading into Ladakh from the North through the Shyok valley. While each of these lend themselves to promotion of low intensity conflicts such as being experienced in the Kashmir valley, the latter provides a significant military approach to Leh.

—It is a part of Jammu & Kashmir and, therefore, disputed territory connected politically with the current Indo-Pak conflict.

Finally, a word about the Karakoram Highway connecting China to Pakistan. This highway is so far from the Siachen complex, separated by untraversable mountains, that each is irrelevant to the other and as such has no bearing on the current conflict or on any future threat to either.

Political Significance

It has been firmly established that even before the partition in 1947, officers of the Indian Army, had clandestinely made military plans to invade and take over Kashmir. The State of Jammu & Kashmir comprised of Jammu, Udhampur and Riasi to the South, Kashmir in the middle, Ladakh and Baltistan on the North, Gilgit to the North-West, Muzzafarabad, Punch and Mirpur to the West and Chamba to the East.

Despite the resolution to join the Indian Union by the Maharajah, the embryonic government in Pakistan launched an offensive into Jammu and Kashmir, employing the militarised tribals of the Gilgit and Baltistan tribal areas officered by regular army elements. As the Pakistan Army achieved some semblance of organisation, it too joined operations to wrest J&K from India.

Offers to cede Kashmir to Pakistan if that country desisted from interfering in Junagadh and a United Nations sponsored cease-fire were summararily rejected by the Government of Pakistan. It was much later, when the Indian offensive was poised to eject the ill equipped and poorly trained Pakistan Army from the Western extremities of J&K, that the latter sued for peace through the United Nations.

At the time of the cease fire, the positions at which the two armies faced each other was recognised as the Cease

Fire Line (CFL) on mutually accepted terms promulgated at Karachi on July 27, 1949. This line was demarcated upto NJ9842 in the Baltistan district only by virtue of the fact that these were physically occupied and contended by both countries. However, a large portion of the disputed State of Jammu & Kashmir lay further to the North, with its fate also to be finalised along with the political resolution of the Kashmir dispute as and when it were to come about.

The Karachi Agreement did, however, take this region into account and it was not discounted as a No Man's Land. The Agreement having made a precise delineation of the CFL goes on to conclude.... "Chorbat La [Point 16,700], Chalinka on the Shyok River, Khorthence North to the glaciers". A cartographic study shows that the alignment extended Northward naturally joins the Saltoro Ridge line. This implicitly demarcates the CFL up to the Indo-Tibet border showing the positions that each country held, pending a political solution to the dispute.

If the Indian Government were to withdraw its troops from the Saltoro Ridge, it would give the Pakistan Government the opportunity to press their claims by reoccupying the unassailable ridge line. The State of J&K became an integral part of India in 1947 with Pakistan in unlawful occupation of certain parts. If any one is to withdraw from Indian territory, it has to be the latter. Any voluntary pullback could, thereafter, reinforce Pakistan's claim to otherareas of Kashmir. The political ramifications rule out this option altogether.

In so far as the ceding of Shaksgam valley by Pakistan to China on 2 March 1963 is concerned, the Sino-Pak boundary agreement is to be ratified after the proprietorship of the region is finalised through a reconciliationof the Indo-Pak dispute. Article 6 of the Agreement reads, "The two parties have agreed that after the settlement of the Kashmir dispute between Pakistan and India, the sovereign authority concerned will reopen negotiations with the Government of the People's Republic of China on the boundary....". Any withdrawal from the area at this stage would lend credence to Pakistan's claims and legitimise her bargaining away Indian real estate to the Chinese.

The Simla Agreement of 1972 was loaded heavily in favour of Pakistan. India agreed to withdraw its troops to the legally recognised International boundary between the two States, East of the Manawar Tawi. However, all portions of territories that had changed hands along the Line of Control (LC) would be retained by the new occupants. Pakistan, who had mounted a large number of operations along the LC, thereby became the gainer by virtue of all its incursions despite having been soundly beaten in the war. If the same logic is to be extended right up to the International Border in the North, India is justified in holding onto all the terrain under its occupation North of NJ9842. Any withdrawal should be related to the withdrawal of Pakistani troops to the pre December 1971 position all along the LC.

Military Precedence

A cease-fire came into being on the CFL between Pakistan and Indian troops in 1949, but on the ground Pakistan continued harassing fire causing non-stop casualties on both sides. Thereafter there were two more cease-fires in September 1965 and December 1971. In all cases, Pakistani troops have continued firing at Indian positions and attempting to move their own positions forward. This has drawn retaliatory fires from the Indian Army.

The fact of the case, even though not highlighted in the media, is that the cease-fire has never been in effect on either the erstwhile CFL or the present day LC. What seems to legitimise this flagrant abuse of international norms is that the conflict is restricted to the disputed lines in Kashmir and war has been prosecuted without manoeuvre!

The Government of India is fully aware that wherever the Army were to pull back to reduce tensions, the Pakistani Army creeps forward and occupies the void thus further accentuating the problem. Despite all kinds of negotiations at all levels of the civil and military echelons of command, India has been unable to get Pakistan to reverse this trend. As a matter of fact whenever the Foreign Secretaries of both countries have met in the last two years, to negotiate peace, the Pakistani Army has launched a major operation along some part of the LC. A clear demonstration of belligerence which repudiates any intention to resolve the issue through peaceful negotiations.

There is no reason whatsoever, to believe that any withdrawal of troops along the Siachen glacier will be a mutual disengagement. Past performance of the Pakistani Army is indicative of a rush forward to occupy any area from which the Indian Army pulls out. It would be naive of the Indian Government to even consider any agreement towards demilitarisation of the region.

Indo-Pak Negotiations

The failure of the recent talks between Pakistani and India officials to diffuse the Siachen conflict is yet another pointer of projected Pakistani ambitions. The issue on which the talks bogged down was, the indisposition of the Pakistani delegation to agree to delineation of the line occupied by both sides at the present stage. This reluctance can flow only from three possible motives:

—The conviction that Pakistan cannot force its will on India, in her dispute over Kashmir, and that the time is coming when she may be forced to reach some sort of settlement with India based on the legitimately accepted LC. Under the circumstances, she would be reluctant to accede to a mutually agreed line of occupation which would later jeopardise her bargaining position.

—A reluctance to pin herself down to a mutually recorded position which the Pakistan Army intends to violate the moment Indian troops pull out from their impregnable positions along the Saltoro Ridge. Attempts to obscure the ground position are essential to the fulfilment of such a strategy.

—A ploy to deliberately stallthe talks as Pakistan is disinclined to reach any sort of accord with India on issues related to Kashmir, for fear of the reduced political leeway to respond positively to any Indian initiative without incurring political penalties in the domestic scene.

Operational and Economic Penalities

Pakistan has deliberately pursued the low cost low intensity philosophy of conflict to bleed India politically, militarily and economically to force her to withdraw from Kashmir. Its a mere function of military potential, political expediency and economic capability of the nation vis-a-vis the objective, i.e. wresting Kashmir from India.

Militarily, Pakistan is not in a position to take Kashmir. Nor is such a potential conceivable in the foreseeable future. Politically Pakistan would find herself isolated if she were to openly wage war against India and invade Kashmir. Economically the country does not have the wherewithal to sustain a long drawn military campaign that fighting in the mountains entails. And, industrially she does not have the infrastructure to replenish materials and munitions through domestic production, thus curtailing the military dimension of her strategy.

On the other hand, the low cost low intensity strategy offers adequate compensation for the deficiencies in the national power structure. The concept adopted can be summed up as follows:

—Encourage subversion of the national polity of the adversary through covert though substantial material support and provision of safe havens for the disgruntled elements in Punjab without direct military involvement. Besides increasing the load on India's security forces, it directly weakens the security environment in Jammu and Kashmir which is dependent on strategic arteries running though Punjab. And increases the economic pressures on India.

—Support separatist groups in Kashmir with military training, safe refuges, arms and munitions thereby drastically increasing the economic and political onus of governing Kashmir. This would also stretch the military resources deployed in the State to an extent which would give rise to opportunities to the Pakistani armed forces to press the advantage along the LC.

—Incite communal strife in Kashmir to suitably camouflage Pakistan's military transgressions in the State.

—Separate a portion of the disputed territory, furtherest from the recognised International Borders of the two countries, from the contention of the LC and mount full-fledged military operations. The area selected, besides confining the scope of operations, is also the most difficult to support militarily by the Indian Army, and therefore, provides incremental cost benefits.

—Divert world attention by accentuating the threat of nuclear proliferation thus considerably reducing the political penalities that would normally go along with the first three operations.

Pakistan expects to defuse any concerted world reaction by orchestrating these strategies in compartments thus negating the scope of any political spin off that would encourage India to take suitable military action that would end in the collapse of the former's economic, military and political structures.

So far Pakistan's game plan has gone like clockwork. The Indian Government, keeping global sensibilities in mind, has bent over backwards to keep tensions within managable limits without having to go to war to resolve the issue. It appears to have responded in a compartmentalised manner that has suited the Pakistani strategy. This strategy has taken a heavy toll in resources and human life, not only in Siachen, but in Jammu and Kashmir, and Punjab also. The political and economic penalities being paid on the domestic scene are accumulative and are fast reaching prohibitive proportions.

How long can this state of affairs go on without a positive response? What is it that makes India so diffident in dealing appropriately with an entity that uses every conceivable ploy to achieve its illegitimate aims through transnational terrorism, military aggression and political chicanery? These are issues that need to be resolved, once and for all at the earliest, failing which the country will be saddled with a crippling millstone around its neck taking it inexorably deeper into the quagmire.

A Strategy To Resolve the Siachen Issue

To start with India must deal with the Pakistan problem as one comprehensive whole. The Government must collectively weigh the implications of Pakistan's policies along the LC, up at Siachen, in its support of insurgency in Kashmir, its involvement in the Punjab imbroglio and its unjustified offensive in global political circles. The sum total of these actions needs to be weighed against the aggregate damage being inflicted on the Indian polity and national interests to arrive at the level ot response demanded. At the same time we need to examine the relevance of Pakistan to India and the former's overall power potential. Based on this equation India musttemper her tolerance levels and mete out appropriate punitive action where it is called for.

Pakistan's political, military and economic weaknesses place it at a disadvantage to India. That country has no positive relevance to India under the prevailing circumstances. Therefore, India has nothing to gain or lose. While one does not advocate a bullying stance, under theexisting circumstances India can dispense with the traditional soft approach and force Pakistan to reconsider its unwarranted hostile stance and activities. This would require a far-reaching politican programme to apprise the world community, with hard evidence, of the offensive that Pakistan has been conducting against India and the adverse effects of these actions on Indian politity and national interest.

In so far as Siachen is concerned, the Indian Government must first and foremost treat the conflict within the framework of the Kashmir problem and equate the Saltoro Ridge with the LC further to the South.

Military Option

As argued earlier the concept of disengagement is imcracticable as Pakistan's total strategy and demonstrated actions vitiate against their adhering to any such agreement. On the other hand to continue to deploy military forces at a logistical disadvantage in extremely inhospitable terrain means taking unacceptable penalties in losses of men and materials at exorbitant costs for an indefinite period of time.

There is only one way out. The Army must formulate plans to occupy a new set of positions that would reduce the penalties of the operation. As a rearward deployment is unacceptable politically and militarily, there is no alternative other than to move forward. The Indian Army is legitimately deployed in the regions against a force that is illegally and forcibly occupying large tracts of Indian real estate. Therefore, any offensive designed to improve the military position in an ongoing military conflict is politically legitimate Pakistan has, in the last 18 months launched a number of offensives in the Kargil, Uri, Poonch, Rajouri and Akhnoor Sectors with total immunity other than the punishment meted out by the Indian Army. And that too, along a mutually agreed upon LC endorsed in the Simla Agreement between the two Governments! Then why must India shy away from applying the same means in the Siachen Sector on the LC? Any military action by the Indian Army has already been legitimised bythe actions of the Pakistani armed forces.

Added to this India can cite a number of occasions when Pakistan has resorted to offensive operations to throw the Indian Army off the Saltoro Ridge, albeit unsuccessfully. The latest was an audacious attack in the Gyong La region where Pakistan suffered large casualties only a few months ago.

Failing the remotest signs of seeing a political solution, the Indian Government has no choice but to resort to military force or continue to operate at unacceptable costs.

A close study of the map will show that besides ameliorating the problems of continuing to defend the Indian position on Saltoro Ridge a forward movement has a number of attendant advantages that would make military management of the LC more effective. If the Indian Army were to occupy the hypothetical line Kurma Ding-Dansam- Point 2560-Point 5259-Mathu BarogTohunu-was-Faranshat-Point 5353, then:

—Pakistan's advantage of interior line of communications would be neutralised and the logistic problems of the new positions considerably magnified .

—By occupying a reduced frontage the Indian Forces would be able to effectively cover the Siachen Sector without the attendant disadvantages.

—The threat to Ladakh through the Shyok valley could be substantially reduced.

—The existing threat to the strategic lines of communication connecting Leh to Srinagar would be lowered by virtue of added depth.

—The threat to the Kashmir valley from the North would be reduced.

—The defence of the LC could be effectively managed with a decreased force level thus reducing the logistics strain.

—A large portion of illegally occupied territory would revert to Indian control.

—It would demonstrate to Pakistan, once and for all, that India has the will and capability to resolve the dispute militarily. It would also serve as a warning against military opportunism in any other Sector.

As a map exercise this military option seems a simple operation. That is not quite true. The management of military operations of such a magnitude in the mountains is extremely complex requiring a very large number of troops, build up and stocking of adequate materials, execution of time bound combat and logistic support under difficult terrain configurations and so on.

The professional leadership of the Army would have to formulate a large number of plans with different objective configurations and analyse these against resources and capabilities. The political leadership would have to weigh the political and economic consequences against national capacities and the likely spin off of not having to continue the military operation on the Saltoro Ridge and then decide upon the most suitable option.

The Government would also have to put into action carefully considered political plans to ensure that the world community understood and appreciated India's compulsions.

Conclusion

Siachen is not an isolated irritant which can be looked upon as an inconsequential issue that needs to be solved in isolation. It is not an aberration of Indian governance resulting in a counter productive military commitment from which the country can walkaway with an easy solution. It is a part of an overall strategy contrived by Pakistan to meet its ill conceived objectives in Kashmir at the cost of India's legitimate position. Any withdrawal from this postition will jeopardise the very basis on which India lays claim to the Pakistan Occupied portions in Kashmir.

Policy to meet the imperatives of the Siachen conflict has to be dovetailed into a comprehensive strategy to meet the threat to Indian policy from Pakistan in its entirety. If this logic is accepted, then there is no option, we cannot move back because Pakistan will not honour any agreement to this effect and will embolden the bellicosity that has been their hallmark in dealings with India.

Pakistan has to be made to realise that while India is prepared to meet it half way to resolve the Kashmir dispute, they cannot be allowed to get away with hostile activities aimed at degrading the Indian policy with impunity. We have stretched ourselves to the limit to demonstrate the first and it is about time India got down to demonstrating the second. Siachen is as good as any other point to demonstrate this philosophy.

Article Views Aspects of Internal Security

BK0303112993 Delhi INDIAN DEFENCE REVIEW in English Jan 93 pp 25-33

[Article by retired Lieutenant General V.K. Nayar: "Internal Security—Some Issues and Aspects"]

[Text]

Introduction

All shades of opinion have expressed concern over the frequent use of the Army in dealing with internal security situations. It is evident that the frequency of getting the Army involved has definitely increased. Besides, both the nature and magnitude of this involvement have changed. While the concern may be genuine, no effort is being made to understand the changing complexion of the internal security environment.

So much has been written, both on the causes of ferment in different areas and the inadequacies in the civil administration and police forces to deal with the internal security situations, that it will be futile to reemphasise these aspects. Our effort should be to identify a set of policy formulations so that solutions emerge, which are executable. Such analyses will also indicate guidelines to improve the environment and give the police, the Paramilitary Forces (PMF) and the Army the correct orientation and increased capability to deal with various situations. These steps will also ensure that the calls on the Army to deal with internal security situations are reduced.

The Problem

Each of our internal security problems have a definite content, many actual and some merely perceived. These consist of historical, socio-economic and at times ethnic and religious aspects. A study of these will bring out the main issues, which form the framework of the problem and these would need to be recognised in each case. With the talent available, both within the government and informal independent bodies normally the parameters of the problem are well identified and understood, but these do not seem to form the basis for decision making. There is always a segment of professionals available in all fields who are dedicated and sincere and who put forward sound opinions. But over the last couple of decades, it has become customary not to recognise such inputs or to hide these views from the political decision makers. Political expediency becomes the overriding factor and immediate matters rather than the actual issues receive attention of the decision maker. This changes the parameters of the problem and we end up tackling what the decision maker thinks or believes to be the main problem, and actual issues never get attended to or these are approached peripherally to obtain results. The basic issues linger on, accentuate and result in agitation and violence. For instance, the main content of the Assam problem was the issue of foreigners, but in 1983, holding and winning elections became the main concern. We are well aware of the subsequent outcome. The same is true of Punjab, Kashmir and the North-East and there are definite manifestations of similar happenings virtually throughout the country now.

Again, in Punjab, the situation at the time of 'Operation Blue Star' had as the basic ingredients political, socio-economic, religious and law and order issues. The law and order problem was a fall out of political and socio-economic agitations and therefore the Punjab problem had to be tackled as an integrated whole. However, law and order aspects were only tackled in isolation, with the well known adverse fall-out.

In Kashmir, the demographic spread of Kashmiri Muslims beyond their natural areas; perpetuation of a separate identity and protectionism resulted in their isolation from the national mainstream. Primarily motivated by the politicians to strengthen their hold and subsequent encouragement to fundamentalist sentiments, the situation required a political battle to be waged with an emphasis on socio-economic measures. However, the problem was glossed over, till it emerged in its violent and extremist form, which is now being tackled essentially as a law and order one. While theproblem has simmered over a period of almost a decade, it was politically expedient not to confront it. Time can heal the effect of 'events' but it does not resolve the problem. Measures, politically not acceptable in the short term, if taken in national interest, will have a good effect ultimately and time would correct aberrations.

In the North East the question of identity, perpetuated isolation and lack of economic development, required a graduated and integrated approach. The process of modernisation and development should have taken into account the question of a closed society, sensitivity to identity and fear of exploitation. After the initial recotgnition, we ignored these areas till resentment burst into violence in one state after the other. The response was the use of force unaccompanied by other measures that should have been part of an integrated approach. The security forces understood the requirements and responded well, but without a guiding policy framework.

In Assam, the demographic invasion with its resultant socio- economic fall-out was ignored because it was politically expedient to thrive on a vote bank of immigrants. Years of neglect burst into one of the most powerful, though peaceful agitations, till suppressive measures were used to quell it. Such a stance can only foment greater trouble. Instead of resolving contradictions, the tendency to manage these for short term political gains and by picking on the most proximate situation to find a solution results in expediency, which always has its dangerous fall-out.

Law and Order Dimensions

Having outlined the basic framework of our approach in tackling internal security problems, it will be pertinent to examine the dimensions of their law and order content, which is the central issue addressed in this article. Onthe high end of the spectrum is active insurgency in J&K [Jammu and Kashmir] and the North-East and terrorism in Punjab and on the other end are problems of a lower order like civil disorder related to political, socio-economic, ethnic and religious issues. It is when this lower level civil disorder is not attended to that situations gain permenancy and escalating violence is a natural consequence. The understanding of the problem at the macro level and to search for a solution is the job of the political leaders and their advisors, both governmental and non-governmental. The handling of each situation including its law and order dimension is the job of the administrators and law enforcement agencies at the local level. However, without a policy framework, each situation is handled in isolation and based on what is immediately expedient. Therefore, a basic policy framework is essential. Without it neither the political will of the government is demonstrated nor are the executives clear of the ultimate goal and the tasks to be fulfilled. This is the key to handling such situations.

With civil disorder, enforcement of law and order, quelling riots, communal disturbances and handling of agitations both violent and non-violent are the norm. Essentially, these are policing operations; however, when both the scope and dimensions of violence are beyond normal policing abilities these may require the involvement of the PMF or even the Army. The decision, both to the level and scope of involvement of the PMF and Army, should have well defined norms and parameters and it is not a question of the local administration or the State Government or the Ministry of Home Affairs throwing in the towel to involve the PMF and the Army.

The decision from the law and order point of view should be essentially guided by the scope and intensity of violence, capability and potential of unlawful elements and the urgency to re- establish the government's writ and credibility, as effectiveness of response is the crucial issue. Both Punjab and J&K provide examples of ham-handed responses without a well thought out strategy. In J&K, where there were clear manifestations of insurgency with foreign support, the situation should have been handed over to the Army with all the law enforcement agencies placed under it to ensure a cohesive and effective response. Instead, a disjointed effort of the state administration, police, PMF and Army has failed to control or improve the general situation.

Conversely in Punjab, tackling terrorism which is within the capability of the police and PMF, gets the Army involved in fits and starts for elections and other perceived situations, which is having an adverse effect. Moreover, in Punjab even the law and order dimensions of terrorism are being handled entirely on the perceptions of the police hierarchy, without a policy framework or accountability, resulting in alienation of the populace from the Government and its instruments. This raises the question of efficiency and developing the capability of our police and PMF to handle situations and imbibing them with the correct orientation and ethos. Unfortunately in this field, responses have been based on unprofessional, insincere and vested advice, which has led to the escalation in numbers and types of police and PMF without any improvement in their efficiency or effectiveness. This has naturally led to greater calls on the Army.

Reasons for the Malaise

It will be futile to blame the police, PMF or the Army or discuss their inadequacies, without first examining the root causes of the malaise. The core of the problem is a total lackof political will to set the house in order. A clear manifestation of the lack of political will is the ethos which has developed in the last two decades, where responses are generated to only agitations, threats and violence and not to constitutionally projected demands and genuine requirements and aspirations. Connected with this question of responses is the trend in government functioning, where every problem is converted into a law and order problem and handled as such. This results in the main causes of the problem being ignored and only the symbols which manifest into violence, being dealt with. There are two main reasons for this. First and foremost is the lack of sincerity and involvement with the problem, and secondly, it is convenient to handle it as a law and order problem as the machinery, both administrative and law enforcing, is under the Government. This perpetuates expediency at the cost of real issues and results in total discrediting of the government's intentions and motives, and dilutes the responses and effectiveness of its instruments.

Issues should not only be debated by public men, in the Parliament and by intellectuals, but they should also act as watch dogs over the political executive and the Government functionaries. At this stage it will be pertinent to examine the state of the apparatus and institutions of governance. During the British period the institutional structures followed the administrative hierarchical chain at the district, provincial and central levels and along with it went the elements of authority and accountability. This institutional framework was not adequate to meet the emerging and diverse requirements of a democratic set up and therefore it was required that the infrastructure be modified, enlarged and a change in their orientation be brought about. Instead of strengthening the institutional framework and increasing their democratisation and responsiveness, a phenomenon in the reverse has taken place. We have either done away with these institutions or diluted their effectiveness. While the element of authority has shifted to the peoples' elected representatives, the politicians, they have failed to display accountability to the people. Basic institutions of governance—judicial, administrative and law enforcing—have been subverted and totally oriented to furtherance of political power.

On the law and order front, both public order and its main agency, the police are in the State list and it is the duty of the Union not only to protect the sanctity of the State list but also the states against internal disturbances. The implications are quite clear, but after independence both, Central interference and dependence of the States on the Centre to maintain law and order have increased. A catalyst to this was provided by the dismissal of inconvenient State Governments and the Centre assuming direct responsibility for the administration of the States. This should have at least provided better administrative responses but since the administrative machinery gets oriented to the requirements of the political executive, it loses it effectiveness.

While we should discuss inadequacies in the enforcing agencies and offer remedies to correct the same, it must be made clear that these can achieve only so much. The core issue remains—the question of political will (or even desire) to put the house in order and revitalisation of the judicial, administrative and law enforcing institutions.

Police

There is no substitute for a good police force. Like any instrument of governance it has to be effective, just and sensitive, then only can it be respected by the people. This is possible only if it derives and exercises authority constitutionally, functions within its parameters and is made accountable for the same. This is the core of what its ethos should be, like any other public service. Without it, it will not draw a positive response from the public and so will get alienated. The task of the ordinary civil policeman is more difficult than any other uniformed person as he lives with the public, is totally of them and yet has to maintain law and order and enforce the law of the country. While he has the Government's authority, his effectiveness depends on public responses. Unfortunately this ethos is totally diluted and police functioning as dictated to them defies all these parameters. This can only be restored at the grass root level, if the senior police officers can withstand the pressures of the politicians, administrators and extra constitutional centres of power.

Responsibility and accountability should go hand in hand. In the current environment it is just the reverse. The responsibility of decision making has entirely become the preserve of the political and administrative bosses and the police at the functional level is accountable for implementingthese decisions. Unless we follow laid down norms and systems this cannot be corrected. No police officer or functionary should be accountable to any one but his own superiors. Similarly, decisions and administrative directions and orders should follow the formalised channels at the centre, state and district levels. At the District level all orders and instructions should be conveyed departmentally, (as should be accountability at the executive level).

To check political interference and pressures, there should be fixed tenures of postings and appointments and promotions based on seniority and capability. The sole judge of this should be the police hierarchy Institution of police screening boards for promotions above Superintendent of Police level at the zonal and central levels is essential to maintain service ethos, prevent political and administrative interference and ensure efficiency.

Linked with the above is the question of efficiency and adequacy. It will be best for the police experts to formulate policy for both. These areas have been covered in detail by the National Police Commission report 1977-81; these should be implemented where still applicable to the current state of internal instability. The key to good policing is knowledge of the people and the area, and in this regard correct functioning at the police station level is at the core of the correctional thrust. This area has been ignored; instead there has been totally disproportionate escalation in the senior ranks. The recommended number of police personnel in proportion to the population; the number of police stations and their manning; and efficiency are areas of immediate concern.

Paramilitary Forces

At the time of independence we had a fine nucleus of armed police forces at the state and the central levels. They were efficient, purpose oriented and thoroughly reliable. Since then, we have lost sight of two basic ingredients—of purpose and efiiciency. A number of PMF have been raised, which have neither added to their efficiency nor to their reliability. Even the Army has fallen a prey to this disorientation and raised the Rashtriya Rifles. What is sad is that it has not added to our capability to handle situations and has eaten into precious and scare resources.

Every adverse law and order situation has given birth to a new type of paramilitary organisation. The response of the Ministry of Home Affairs in this regard has belied all rationality. Even before the situation is analysed, assessments of the responses made and available resources earmarked or utilised, snap decisions to raise a number of different types of police battalions are taken. This is particularly true since 1984 and the example of the

National Security Guard (NSG) merits examination inthisregard. In 1984, when NSG was to be raised, opinions of the Army and Ministry of Defence were sought. After detailed examination we were categorical in our recommendation that VIP Security, anti hijacking and limited anti terrorist operations can be handled by the selected personnel of any of the existing police forces with correct orientation and training and there was no need to raise a separate force for these tasks. The Ministry of Defence concurred with our opinion and recommendations to shelve the proposal were endorsed by the Ministry of Finance with the remark "Escalation both in the types and number of police forces is no answer to efficiency". The same person, when in the Cabinet Secretariat, later sanctioned it. A very rational decision taken in a most professional manner became a casualty to the urge to provide officers of the rank of Maj Gen [Major General] and below, and jawans [soldiers]; and the Army is still doing so. At that point in time and even now we still have a force under the Cabinet Secretariat manned by the Army which could have fulfilled the role(s) efficiently. (As far as the NSG is concerned the head of the force is a police officer and could be one irrespective of his background, experience and expertise. It has its implications both on the efficiency and orientation of the force.)

At the time of independence in 1947, we had need based armed police units raised by the states and the CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] as the Central Police Force. Having functioned with the armed police units of some of the states (PAP [expansion unknown], PAC [Provincial Armed Constabulary], RAC [expansion unknown], MP [Military Police] SAF [expansion unknown], BMP [expansion unknown]) and CRPF at the grassroot level, both in J&K (including the 1965 operations); in insurgencies in Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and during civil disturbances and communal riots at Aligarh, Moradabad, Jamshedpur and in Assam, I am convinced of their capability and efficiency to handle any situation short of the extreme contingency requiring Army involvement, given the correct training and orientation.

There is no requirement of any other type of police force for handling internal security in all its dimensions. Linked with this is the all important question that one cannot discredit a law enforcement agency and expect it to be efficient and effective. The case at issue is the discrediting of the Uttar Pradesh [UP] Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC) and raising of the Rapid Deployment Force with communal representation. One cannot have Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims or Christians manning a uniformed force; they have to be Indians. It is a sad commentary on the thinking and orientation of our political leadership and higher echelons of administration. How can one profess to be secular and blame one's opponents, when government officially perpetuates organised instruments of governance on communal lines in terms of numerical representation? It there have been failings or inadequacies in the functioning of the UP PAC or any other police force it needs to be eradicated but not countered by distrust.

The requirement of border guarding during peace and dealing with trans-border illegal activities like smuggling and infiltration are well recognised. The BSF [Border Security Forces] was created for this task and irrespective of location and nature of the border, there should be one force for it. It will be prudent to merge the Indo-Tibet Border Police with BSF. In any case it is too small a force to have a separate hierarchy, training and administrative infrastructure. In the case of a live border and where the Army is permanently committed, the border guarding forces of the police should be put under the Army's command except for few administrative requirements peculiar to the police force.

Assam Rifles

Assam Rifles, though under the Ministry of Home Affairs is not a police force at all; it does not even fit in under the definition of a PMF. It is really akin to the Army; it has a similar ethos and is particularly oriented to the North-East. Its expertise, manning and organisation is entirely related to both the internal and external environment of the East. It should remain so. The recent trend of sending them outof the East to J&K and Government's pronouncements to take it out of the East and deploy them any where in the country is a hasty and unprofessional decision. Its efficiency is in its nature, ethos, Eastern orientation and closeness to the Army. I am surprised that the Army is accepting this. It is not a question of Ministry of Home Affairs being the controlling Ministry, it is a question of national assets. The requirement of the East is not going to reduce, if at all it will increase. So why upset a running and well tried out organisation?

In my opinion to consider the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) as a police force would be incorrect. These are really departmental security services and should be treated as such. While they retain their duties and authority for maintaining security in our industrial establishments and railways, they should be transferred to the Ministry of Industries and Railways. Similarly, the state armed police and home guards should continue to be oriented to the States and DG Home Guards at the centre should be abolished. Home guards should really be part of the state administration and function under the district administrative authorities.

A disturbing trend of senior police officers behaving and acting extra constitutionally, particularly in a disturbed environment has become noticeable. This cannot happen without encouragement by political establishments who act as their mentors and do so to get something done which they themselves perpetrated. This ethos of police supremacy is negating the effectiveness of administration, (whatever is left of it) in the disturbed states. There is also a marked tendency on the part of some police officers to create a security scare, both to politicians and administrators to get their demands of expansion of the police force. There are instances where the reverse is also true, where the real situation is never delineated even by the intelligence agencies as these are police controlled to avoid accountability. These trends will have an adverse fall-out in the long run and negate our capability to deal with situations at the cost of the nation.

Having dealt with some of the major areas of concern and how to improve them there are other equally important areas which the police forces should attend to. The core of it is the development of the correct work culture and ethos. Today the police forces have got disoriented from their professional ethos. The reasons for this are obvious. This can only be eradicated by training, both formal and on the job, to re-establish functional norms. Some of these relate to systematised functional routine work at the police station and above levels. These include registration of complaints, maintenance of diary, duty rosters, maintenance of riot schemes, orders and basic data of the area, orders, functioning of control rooms, and periodic meetings with public representatives. Formal training should include orientation refresher courses and efficiency tests for promotion below SP [Superintendent of Police] level. At the appropriate level, training should include realisation of socio-economic issues, public service and response to it, and professional subjects like crowd control, prevention of riots and public participation in helping police in maintenance of law and order. Senior police officers at the level of SP and above should be given powers for disciplinary action against corrupt police officers. Today State Government's concurrence and orders are required to deal with even an inspection, except for suspension.

The work culture and ethos is also linked with the question of discipline and loyality, which becomes a very difficult proposition when there is a multiplicity of directions and command. This can only be resolved if formalised channels and functional responsibility and accountability is entirely left with the police hierarchy. This will not only result in greater efficiency but also ensure discipline and loyality within theforce. This is essential to ensure correct work culture and ethos. I have indicated the areas of concern; these should be formalised in administrative and departmental orders. Once the system is formalised and restored, even the senior bureaucrats and politicians will be chary of ignoring them.

Connected with police functioning is the all important issue of the system of criminal justice. Even when the police catches the law breaker and he is to be prosecuted, our criminal justice system is so lethargic that it may take months and even years before the culprit is put away. More often than not as time passes and these cases drag on, the evidence may be tampered with and become unreliable. The onus and pressure is on the police, which turns into harassment as the number of cases increase. Along with police reforms there is an urgent need to make our criminal justice system efficient and responsive.

Changing Ethos of Army's Involvement

The main reasons for Army's overinvolvement in internal security operations are political expediency, lack of responsibility and accountability of the administrative machinery and inadequacies in the police forces. At the same time it will be prudent to examine the changes in the Army's ethos.

First and foremost I believe that if the Army can preempt such involvements by conveying its professional opinion before such situations develop, display its apolitical stance both in its opinions and actions and demand or enunciate an inhouse policy frame work based on national interest, it would be all for the good.

In addition, there is also the connected issue of the Army's methodology and functioning in a widely disturbed environment. These issues have come up because in recent years in the public eye their achievements in tackling such problems have not been upto expectations. There has been criticism of this, both by public men and professionals. Some of the main issues of concern connected with management aspects and which can be corrected inhouse are discussed below.

Lack of mental and physical preparation of commanders and troops. There has been a marked tendency to deploy troops in haste and piecemeal without due orientation and preparation into live situations, which have developed over a period of time. This reduces their capability, affects motivation and leads to frustration and even failure. Failure leads to disorientation and at times even to brutalisation. In this regard the manner of the Army's involvement in Sri Lanka and Internal Security (IS) operations subsequently needs examination and corrective action taken.

Developing capability. Sri Lanka is a good example, where troops were put at a disadvantage by piecemeal and hurried induction, and subsequently blamed for not achieving goals perceived by their higher commanders: goals which were not even enunciated to the junior commanders and their men and no chance given to them to prepare for their tasks. Most professionals believe that an average infantry battalion given proper orientation and minimum time for preparation would have performed much better and at a much lower cost in casualties and thereafter achieve a modicum of results. Time was available as contingency planning had been done much earlier. Instead troops were rushed from different places and formations, which broke up command, control and organisational cohesiveness, with the resultant drop in capability. Our senior commanders covered up their planning and directional inadequacies by blaming the troops. The issue is not of justification and apportioning blame of any kind but to accept shortcomings and finding remedies. Even if one were to accept the opinion of some senior commanders handling the situation at that point of time that troops were not up to it (which most professional opinions do not subscribe to), the approach to be adopted was to plan within their capability and build it up as operations progressed and time went on. This is what command is all about.

Correct man for the job. Intense, live situations demand that we put such officers in command at different levels, who have the potential, experience and moral courage to do the right thing. Instead the tendency has been to make a fresh start with every crisis, rather than building up on our experience and expertise. These situations are not meant to give experience to people, who have missed it in their long service career. Such commanders are victims of inaction and they tend to totally succumb to views and perception of their seniors. The problem becomes worse if the seniors also lack the orientation and experience, which unfortunately has been the case. Our Army has a wealth of talent and experience to handle such situations with efficiency but these commanders are good professional soldiers who do not accept nonsense from their seniors and juniors alike and are thus considered inconvenient. By and large, barring a few exceptions, commanders with the right orientation have not been employed, due to their no nonsense and professional approach. Expediency and doing what is asked for is the main concern.

In the same vein, one cannot but help touch upon a very discernible change in the Army's orientation and ethos. The Army has developed a totally defensive and protective orientation and image. It has its origin in the fall out of Operation Blue Star. Instead of it being corrected (except by few individual commanders) it is getting perpetuated. The natural fall- out of it has been a gradual disorientation of the Army and thereby erosion of its capability. It is symbolised by the protective cover under which some of our senior officers have been moving about even when among troops and a totally defensive approach and image displayed by the Army in active environments of insurgency and terrorism. At the personal level it has been adopted as a matter of style and it has become fashionable to profess to be a threatened individual in 'Z' category. The question is, is the threat real or a means to enhance one's perks? Most junior officers believe the latter. We have been in insurgency environment for over 40 years but no such threat exists for previous senior officers or some of the current ones. At the ground level, it is distorting professional orientation and breeds distrust. It is a matter of serious concern and needs immediate attention.

At the functional level, the defensive outlook is perpetuated by inexperienced commanders by inaction, playing safe and following what they are told. They tend to ignore the actual situation, order troops to adopt undue protective measures to avoid casualties, so that they are not questioned and centralise actions based on their own defensive orientation to avoid ugly fall outs of even correct actions. This is blunting the Army's capability and causing frustration among junior commanders and troops. A typical example is of the Army moving in large numbers essentially road bound, whereas the requirement is for small scale aggressive operations both in the rural and urban areas. Instead of encouraging police and paramilitary forces to adopt a more effective and aggressive stance the Army tends to adopt their methodology.

In the last few months both the political and bureaucratic hierarchy have displayed singular lack of maturity by public pronouncements questioning the judgement and sincereity of the senior Army officers when they have expessed purely professional views, even if these were somewhat critical. On the central issue of governance, it is definitely the concern of every citizen and more so of the apolitical senior Armed Forces officers. They have so far refrained as the process of mutual consultation was functioning at some point in time, in the past. Frustration to make the hierarchy accept a professional viewpoint justifiably should lead to such outbursts. It has happened in the past and will happen again, for the resultant anger of mismanagement by the political and bureaucratic hierarchy is falling on the uniformed services—the police, paramilitary forces and the Army—as they have to tackle a given law and order situation. It is sad that the total fall-out has been an exercise in one-upmanship, where the politicians and the bureaucrats feel that they have got the better of the Services. The core issue of management has not been attended to. By indulging in this exercise of one-upmanship and display of their supremacy they are doing grave damage to the instruments of the political executive. Personal and professional differences should be resolved inhouse and not publically. Today the Government depends on the Army and takes its resolve to handle any crisis for granted. God forbid if it fails, then what will happen to the Nation?

Structural Changes

Having discussed the internal security environment broadly with reference to its law and order content, and inadequacies in police, paramilitary forces and the Army in handling such situations, it will be prudent to examine current approaches and suggest corrective measures to overcome observed inadequacies. At the macro level internal security in all its dimensions has been the preserve of the Ministry of Home Affairs, not only in policy formulation but even at the execution level. Because of the vastness and complexities of the problems, the response has been purely that of crisis management. In the absence of a policy framework this manner of working has been reinforced by exegencies of situations and response to even temporary setbacks resulting in overcentralisation of executional direction. The effect of this has been that the constitutional framework and authority of the States has been eroded. Instead of all elements working in cooperation and in a coordinated fashion for the common goal, everyone concerned is working in a conflict environment and there is total lack of accountability. Centralisation has also resulted in extra- constitutional powers being exercised by hand picked police officers, without any accountability to the State authorities. While it may appear to be expedient to follow this approach it is unlikely to contribute to long term and permanent improvement of the situation and resolving the problem.

If we have to improve this state of affairs then certain structural changes are essential. This is all the more important as individual personalities in the political sphere have come to play a role beyond their official ministerial portfolios or place in the party set up. To illustrate, the national security aims in Sri Lanka were essentially dictated by the Ministry of External Affairs under the Prime Minister; and our Ambassador to Sri Lanka at that time had an extraordinary influence and say in the employment and functioning of the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force]. Similarly, the Ministry of Home Affairs, inspite of vast employment of the Army in insurgency decides all issues. The Ministry of Defence and Army appear to be only in attendance and not a party to the decision making. Since political and bureaucratic personalities are likely to continue to play a decisive role, a structural change in decision making has become imperative. There is need to put decision making on all issues of national security under a new Ministry perhaps calledthe Ministry of National Security. It should confine itself to policy issues and leave the implementational and executive national security aspects to the other ministries concerned. Regarding Internal Security, policy formulation both overall and concerning specific areas, the Ministries and State Governments concerned should be consulted and after obtaining their inputs, a white paper enunciating the policy should be formulated and issued to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Defence and other economic Ministries and the State concerned. Without this policy framework neither can the political will be exercised nor cohesive functioning achieved.

To implement other changes and to ensure sanctity and independence of functioning of both the bureaucracy and the police, the department of personnel should be delinked from Ministry of Home Affairs and converted into a Ministry under independent charge of a full cabinet Minister. The Minister should have an autonomous board or a commission dealing with promotion postings and transfers of IAS [Indian Administrative Service] and police officers. The level should be restricted to Joint Secretary and above in the IAS and DIG [Deputy Inspector General] and above in the Police. Without such a structural change, it will be impossible to prevent political interference and patronage. Today we have more police officers as Governors and at various secretary level appointments than any other service. Is this a case of efficiency or patronage? The other inhouse changes in the functioning and ethos of the police and paramilitary forces have been discussed along with their inadequacies. The recommendations of the police commissions and other changes recommended should be implemented expeditiously.

Potential and Responsibility

In discussing the dimensions of the internal security from the law and order point of view I had mentioned that on one end of the spectrum is insurgency and terrorism and on the other end are the lower order problems dealing with civil disturbances. In deciding the involvement of the police, PMF and even the Army, the guideline should be the three basic influencing factors of the scope, intensity and potential of violence, capability of the unlawful elements and the urgency to re-establish the authority and credibility of the Government. As effectiveness and rationality of response is the crucial issue the current trends of gradual escalation of types and number of forces responding to the problems entirely guided by political expediency, ignoring the real issues in the initial stages followed by over reaction or an ineffective response will only produce complexities and not resolve the basic issues.

With the above background let us first examine the lower order level of law and order concerned with civil disturbances which consist of agitations, cornmunal and ethnic disturbances and enforcement of law and order. Normally these are local issues confinecl to an area and the immediate environment surrounding them. But unfortunately our politicians in their effort to draw mileage, blow these totally out of proportion. A classic example is the issue of the Ram Janam Bhumi and Babri Masjid. The same can be said of other civil disturbances. Interference by the State and Central politicians and frequent employment of central police forces is not only counter productive but erodes the authority and accountability of the local administration and State police. The basic issue is that we cannot ignore a developing situation in its initial stages, play politics with it and when it overflows ask law enforcement agencies to handle it and that too with constraints imposed on them. Unless we are sincere in this understanding we will continue to flounder.

These are essentially policing tasks and under violent conditions, in the realm of armed police operations. Calling in the Army should be a rare exception. This should be the basic policy and both the local administration and police should be given the responsibility and held accountable for it. Help of central police forces should be on demand of State authorities after due verification. Here again, the employment and accountability should be left to the State Government. This would be possible only if there is no political interference and there is independence of execution. The principle should be that governance is as much a State and local administration responsibility as that of the Centre. Therefore these problems of civil disturbances should be handled at the local and State levels with CRPF being provided based on the State's requirement. The Army's involvement in such situations should be rare and should follow laid down norms of State administration requisitioning aid for short periods. To curb the temptation of civil administration requisitioning the Army mindlessly, the level should be raised to the State and such aid should be cleared by Army Headquarters and Ministry of Defence. In this regard it will also be pertinent to point out that the practice of requisitioning aid by the police in metropolitan cities, where police commissioners have such powers should be done away with. The police is a law enforcement agency and as such cannot exercise judgementon the situation, particularly with regard to requisitioning of Army aid. In the recent past, in some instances Army aid has been requisitioned by the Ministry of Home Affairs and Army HQ and Ministry of Defence, both have provided such aid even without consultation and knowledge of the local civil administration. This is an unhealthy practice and should be stopped.

In an intense insurgency and terrorism situation, the situation itself is the outcome of long neglect of thenistorical, socio- economic and at times ethnic and religious aspects of the aspirations of the people. In the present context add to it the factors of corruption, maladministration and ignorance, which result in agitational outbursts and later violence by a segment of the society. This has to be handled as a whole based on a policy framework embracing all aspects. Law and order is only a part of it and not the problem in itself. In the absence of a policy framework, the tendency to tackle the symbols of the problem and immediate issues rather than the actual ones. We should be conscious of it and formulate a policy based on all available inputs.

On the law and order front, in an insurgency or terrorism environment, the guiding principle should be a totally professional assessment of the situation based on the intensity of violence, potential of the insurgents/terrorists and urgency of the situation. I will first dwell on the issue of urgency as in the recent past this has been used more as a pretext to meet the ends of political expediency than the demands of the actual situation. The basic issue is, as to who has been held responsible for letting the situation escalate and why it was not controlled as it was developing?. [punctuation as published] Without taking cognisance of these factors and remedying them, the guilty will get away with it and innocent people will be left to suffer. This aspect of responsibility and accountability has great relevance, if we have to stem the rot and put our house in order. This consciousness can be brought about by honest public men by generating public responses on the issue. Be that as it may, it has relevance forthe future and it should act as a moral check on our leaders not to play any further with the ongoing problems and create future ones.

A correct decision on the type and level of involvement of forces should be based on a pragmatic assessment based on ground level inputs and after due consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Defence and State Governments under the aegis of Ministry of National Security. In decision making total weightage should be given to professional advice. Although there is a very thin line between terrorism and insurgency, both require a distinct and different approach, which only the professionals with the requisite background and experience can discern. As a guiding principle, terrorism should be entirely handled by the State administration assisted by paramilitary forces and insurgency by the Army assisted by paramilitary forces underCentral directions. As discussed earlier, Punjab is a State infested by terrorism and the Army's involvement is totally unwarranted, whereas in J&K it is a case of insurgency aided and abetted by Pakistan. In both situations our responses have been faulty and unprofessional. It will be prudent for the authorities to reassess the situation.

Another factor in handling situations of high intensity violence as in terrorism is the all important issue of credibility. Our approach to internal security situations has been "A case of Government failure by default", with the basic element of credibility totally missing. In Kashmir they talk of ushering in a political process. In Punjab they talk of a package within the framework of the Rajiv-Longowal Accord; in Assam the accord has been put aside and response to the Jharkhand demand has drawn divergent pronouncements by Central leaders and the Chief Minister of Bihar. What is worse is that nothing comes of all such pious pronouncements. Even if one were to believe that the statements are genuine, the impact is lost by frequent changes in stance and tardy and insincere implementation, resulting in total lack of credibility. The reason for the lack of credibility is that there is no laid down policy on any issue and political expediency overrides any rational approach. In such a scenario one tends to find handymen, whereas the requirement is to entrust the task to credible and sincere persons.

The above lack of credibility gives a justified impression of lack of will on the part of the government to resolve the problem. This makes the government machinery sluggish and unresponsible and it fails prey to expediency and institutions of governance get subverted. The cornerstone of political will is credibility and sincerity, which is lacking.

Conclusion

Law and order is a part of the overall internal security problem. In most cases it is the fall-out of the prolonged neglect of historical, socio-economic, ethnic and at times religious aspirations of the people. It is, therefore, imperative that the problem is handled in its entirety. Peacemeal dealing with the law and order dimensions only will result in wrong responses and certain failure.

The core of handling internal security problem is *the display of political will to put the house in order.* This can only be projected by a viable policy, a sincere and credible approach and dedicated execution entirely dictated by national interest. To achieve it, an ethos of political expediency and dependence on pressure groups must be completely eradicated and institutionalised approach to problems cultivated.

The law and order dimensions of our internal security problem have become more complex and varied. These require a distinctive assessment of each situationtodiscernthe correctmethodology of handling it, which must always be within the overall policy framework.

Finally, unless structural changes are brought about in the handling of issues of national security, and the present system is reformed to enhance the capability of law enforcement agencies and a conducive environment created for their functioning, our ability to handle internal security situations will remain constrained. There is also a need to evolve and lay down parameters for the employment of police, paramilitary forces and under certain conditions the Army in internal security situations, based on professional and pragmatic assessments. Failure to do so will not only result in unwarranted involvement of the Army but seriously restrict the capability of the police and paramilitary forces.

Iran

Velayati Calls For Lifting Arms Embargo on Bosnia

LD0403152093 Tehran IRNA in English 1435 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Tehran, March 4, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Thursday [4 March] strongly called for lifting of arms embargo against the legal government of Bosnia-Hercegovina (B-H) so as to enable the people of that country to defend themselves.

Velayati speaking to the heads of the diplomatic corps of the Islamic countries in Iran said with any means available, even by force, the Serbian aggression should be checked and the massacre of Muslims should be stopped.

He said air, land and sea routes to Bosnia should be opened so that humanitarian aid and assistance to the hungry people of the besieged and non-besieged cities can be resumed. "The criminals who have embarked on atrocities, unrecorded in history, should be put on trial and be punished," Velayati stressed.

A massacre is now taking place in the city of Cerska on the eastern part of Bosnia and lives of more than 20,000 local inhabitants, mostly women and children are in grave danger, Velayati warned.

"The peace talks and agreements reached in London and Geneva meetings were not decisive and did not go far enough. In such conditions when peace negotiations are underway in New York and the Bosnian president attending the negotiations, warns against the possibility of the defeat of the Bosnian Army and its repercussions, and at a time when the brutal Serbian aggression has taken a new dimension, it is necessary for me to draw the attention of your excellencies and your represented government seriously to what is going on in Bosnia today," he told the diplomats.

Velayati said "we have all been witness to the bitter exodus and homelessness of the Muslim people of the republic and we have even seen how Serbian aggressors in the name of ethnic cleansing have violated Muslim girls and women and inflicted all kinds of medieval tortures on them."

He said Serbian forces are tightening the siege around the Bosnian cities, particularly the cities to the east of the country, where the embattled people who have gone for months without food are under renewed attacks.

Such an arms and food embargo has been imposed on the Bosnian people when Serbs are receiving assistance from various sources, as attested by many reliable sources, he added.

Velayati noted that Iran voiced its full support for the rights of the Bosnian people and government in two extraordinary meetings of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and asked for the lifting of arms embargo against Bosnia.

A recent OIC session in Jeddah decided that if the international community does not take a decisive action by January 15th, 1993, OIC would take necessary practical measures, he said.

"Now that we are at the beginning of March we know that no serious action has been taken by the international community to stop these atrocities, and the passing of time has only served as a bonus to the Serbs to fortify their positions in the occupied regions and also to reach their political goals with the help of some bigger government," he regretted.

In closing Velayati once again expressed Iran's readiness to actively participate in any measure designed to stop this aggression and to revive and guarantee the rights of the Muslims people of Bosnia.

Velayati Details Position

LD0403174293 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by unidentified correspondent following Velayati's meeting with members of the Islamic diplomatic corps in Tehran on 4 March—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr. Velayati, please tell us how the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran was described during this gathering [of members of the Islamic diplomatic corps accredited to Tehran].

[Velayati] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The position of the Islamic Republic of Iran can be summarized into four parts: One: The food embargo or blockade of the Muslims must be lifted as soon as possible and in any way possible, including the use of force. Second: The arms embargo against Bosnia must be lifted as soon as possible so they can at least defend themselves. Third: The continuing aggression and crimes of the Serbs against the Muslims must be stopped by the United Nations, or under the banner of the United Nations, even if this means the use of force. Fourth: Those who have been recognized and are known to be responsible for the crimes against the Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina must be put on trial at the International Court of Justice.

We also had a word with the representatives of Islamic countries specifically regarding their countries' positions so they can get themselves ready for the imminent meeting of Islamic foreign ministers in Karachi, Pakistan, and take more serious steps to achieve the rights of Muslims and to stop the crimes against them by the Serbs.

[Correspondent] Iran has requested to take part in the peace force in Bosnia-Hercegovina. Please tell us about the response of the UN officials toward this request.

[Velayati] Iran will participate in any possible legitimate and legal measure designed to stop the perpetual aggression of the Serbs against Muslims because Iran attaches importance to the fate of Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina. We still await the UN response and hope to receive a positive reply as soon as possible.

Official Criticizes 'Useless' UN Bosnia Policy

LD0403181593 Tehran IRNA in English 1717 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Test] Tehran, March 4, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs, Mohammad Javad Zarif here today briefed the ambassadors of the UN Security Council member states over the new dimension of the Serbs' unmanly crimes in Bosnia. In a meeting with the ambassadors here, he called the United Nations half-hearted action towards the Bosnian crisis as "useless". He said the UN was responsible for the mass killings and constant violation of human rights in Bosnia and Hercegovina.

He said, "The Security Council has done nothing yet and the world body should bear the consequences of its negligence towards the tragedy". He said in the past two days Serbian forces occupying the eastern Bosnian city of Cerska and the surrounding villages had killed Muslim citizens and set ablaze their households.

Zarif told IRNA after the meeting that Iran and a large number of Islamic states had criticized the attitude of the Security Council towards the Bosnian crisis and had repeatedly voiced their concern to officials of the Security Council member states.

"We have informed the Security Council member states that the Council had not adopted an identical stance on cases of aggression and the victims of these aggressions. Instead of dealing with the aggression itself, they have so far dealt with its side-problems," Zarif said. He said that the occupation of Cerska simultaneously with the New York peace talks indicated an inadequate conduct of the Bosnian crisis by the international community.

Concurrent with the second round of the peace talks in new york and air drops in Bosnia, operations for occupying Cerska started and the Serbs captured the area after 48 hours of bombardment, Zarif said. He added that the Security Council should have moved sooner to expel the Serbs from the former occupied lands or at least lift the arms embargo against the country.

Zarif said that in New York peace talks the war criminals were also present and he had announced to the ambassadors of the Security Council members that the only way to stop the crimes and mass killings in that country was to punish the war criminals.

Further on Zarif's Criticisms

LD0403193693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] In the wake of the intensification of the Serbian aggressions in Bosnia-Hercegovina and the silence of the international forums, Mr [Mohammad Javad] Zarif, the deputy foreign minister for international affairs, addressed a gathering of the ambassadors of the UN Security Council member states. In his address he outlined the actions of the United Nations and the Security Council in curbing the Serbian aggressions, and called for more serious actions by international forums in regaining the rights of the Muslim people of Bosnia-Hercegovina. At the end of the session Mr. Zarif was interviewed by our correspondent, to which I draw your attention:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Mr. Zarif, would you inform us of the issues discussed during your session with the ambassadors of the UN Security Council member states?

[Zarif] The Islamic Republic of Iran and many other countries have constantly criticized the United Nations for its attitude toward the Bosnian crisis and Serbian atrocities. We have on many occasions underlined these criticisms in our meetings with the Security Council officials and members. In my discussion with the Security Council representatives in Tehran, it was once more emphasized and proved that the United Nations' handling of the Bosnian crisis and Serbian crimes has been inadequate and useless, and that it must be rectified. That is to say that the Security Council has hitherto dealt in the same way with both the aggressor and the victim of aggression. On the other hand, instead of dealing with the core of the issue, in other words, the aggression which is taking place against the innocent Bosnians, it is dealing with a number of side issues; but it has even failed in carrying out these side issues successfully, including the dispatch of humanitarian aid. The occupation of Cerska at the start of the peace talks in which a number of these criminals were also present, should have served as a proof, and we advised the ambassadors of the UN Security Council member states in Tehran that the Council must take notice of that proof, since its handling of the issues has not been correct.

Our requests from the Security Council are clear. First that the Security Council, as the organ of the United Nations which shoulders the task of establishing international peace and stability, should have taken action in encountering the aggression of the Serbs, expelling the Serbs from the Bosnian territory, and restoring Bosnia's territoral integrity. The least the Security Council can do, and we have advised them of that, is to lift the arms embargo on Bosnia to enable the Bosnians to defend their territorial integrity, sovereignty, people, and women and children. Second, if no serious means are found for the punishment of these war criminals and investigations into their crimes by appropriate international tribunals—and some of these war criminals as I mentioned are currently participating in the talks—then there will be no way of preventing these crimes. That is another request which we have from the Security Council, and which we have repeated on many occasions. Our final request concerns the fact that the Bosnian people are currently living in terrible conditions in terms of humanitarian aid, and is therefore essential to open all routes to all Bosnian towns so that humanitarian aid may reach them. [end recording]

U.S. Motives in Contacting Hamas Examined

LD0403132393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1051 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Palestine Resistance movement Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] considers that Washington's decision to break relations with it is due to pressures and lobbying by Zionists in America.

Representatives from the Hamas movement recently had several meetings and discussions with diplomats of the U.S. embassy in Jordan. They say the United States intends to place the name of the Hamas movement on the list of organizations which the United States itself considers as terrorist. This does not change Hamas' present situation, especially in the occupied territories, or its participation in the leadership of the intifadah. But it does make it possible for the U.S. Government to follow up certain judicial and legal measures in relation to supporters of the Hamas movement, especially in America, where it is said that some of Hamas' supporters are sending money and financial aid to that movement in the occupied territories.

Recently, Israel also arrested three Americans of Palestinian origin on this very charge. This met with protests from the U.S. Government.

It can at least be said that one of Hamas' important aims, in its dealings with the United States, is to prevent its name from being placed on the list of terrorist organizations. Yesterday, the Hamas representative in Jordan said the movement's strategy does not include any military measures outside the occupied territories. He said the suggestion that the Hamas movement had a hand in the recent explosion at the New York World Trade Center is an effort to label the movement a terrorist one.

But listen to how the U.S. secretary of state described the objectives behind the U.S. contacts with Hamas: In view of the attention we pay to developments in the world of Islam, especially as a political force, our embassies, notably, the Amman embassy established contacts with a number of people, so that they can discuss this matter. Right now, there are no talks taking place between us and Hamas. Bearing in mind the present situation, we asked our embassies to break any such contacts.

But the Palestine Liberation Organization [PLO], on its part, says that the motive behind the U.S. contacts with Hamas is, in fact, to bring pressure to bear on the PLO, and claims that the United States wants to play with the unity of the PLO and fan the flames of opposition among national forces.

Everyone knows that the Hamas movement is opposed to, and rejects, the bilateral [peace] negotiations. The PLO both approves of these negotiations and considers it has a part to play in them; and she also determines the policy of the Palestinian delegation in the bilateral talks. Now that over 400 Hamas and Islamic Jihad supporters are in exile in southern Lebanon, the PLO has announced that it will not allow participation in the talks unless all the deportees return.

Considering the political differences between Hamas and the PLO, the latter's support for Hamas in the case of the deportees is very interesting, perhaps because the PLO leadership considers itself the leader of all Palestinians.

In any case, the forums siding with the PLO believe that one of the U.S. goals in contacting Hamas is to pressurize the PLO to stop linking the bilateral [peace] talks with the case of the deportees, and to agree to return to the negotiating table before all the deportees return.

Apart from these political interplays, some say that Washington's principal aim in contacting pro-Islamic movements in the region—from Palestine to the Arab Maghreb—is an effort to neutralize these movements and control them, so that the United States can bring its most entrenched opponents in the region round to its own way of thinking.

Christopher's Middle East Tour Discussed

NC0403142293 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 24 Feb 93 p 2

[Editorial: "What Is Christopher Pursuing?"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher Monday [22 February] night entered Israel amid tight security measures after visiting Lebanon. Upon arrival, he said he was sent to the region by President Clinton to hold talks with all involved factions, to assess their views, and to inform them of the importance of resuming the Middle East peace talks.

Christopher's completely diplomatic statements elucidate that his regional tour is more ceremonial than practical. The standpoints of all sides of the negotiations were in fact thoroughly obvious in each and every phase, and there was no need to be once again acquainted with them.

Contrary to promises made to the Arabs by the former U.S. foreign policy officials, Israel is not willing to give back the lands it occupied in June 1967. Israel is even reluctant to give back to Lebanon the lands which it occupied in South Lebanon in the early 1980's and which it has to give back on the basis of UN Resolution 425. In addition, Israel is only killing time and engaging in murder and suppression when it comes to the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

In point of fact, Christopher travelled to Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Lebanon not for accelerating and activating the peace talks. His trip to the region was mainly because most of these are among the conservative Arab countries who espoused the Republicans in the U.S. presidential elections campaign. These have been expended huge amounts of money to have George Bush reelected. Now that Clinton has won, these countries do not conceal their worry and anxiety.

Through Christopher's visit to the region, Clinton primarily intended to give some kind of self-confidence to these conservative Arab countries allied with the U.S. The aggressive stances of Israel coupled with recent problems such as deportation of some 400 Palestinians have blocked the way for the continuation of the talks dubbed as "peace negotiations."

It should, meantime, be kept in mind that the domestic U.S. economy is so disorderly that Clinton prefers not to waste the energy of his administration for a vicious circle of talks. Furthermore, in case the talks are resumed, the Clinton Administration will be exposed to further pressure to force Israel into abiding by the Security Council resolutions 242, 338, 425, something which Clinton and his pro-Israel advisers do not go for.

Vice President on Rushdie Fatwa, Western Relations

NC0503063493 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 27 Feb 93 pp 1, 15

[Report by Mehrdad Balali on an "exclusive" interview with Ata'ollah Mohajerani, vice president for parliamentary and legal affairs, in Tehran; date not given]

[Text] Tehran—"The new significance Iran has gained after the revolution together with the antagonism between Islam and Western secularism, are the main reason behind the ongoing pressures against the Islamic Republic of Iran," said the Deputy to the President for Parliamentary and Legal Affairs, Dr. Ata'ollah Mohajerani in an exclusive interview with the TEHRAN TIMES.

Referring to the row with England, sparked by the Salman Rushdie incident, Mohajerani said that there are two basic reasons behind the problems with the West.

"One major difference comes from the conflict between the Western concept of human rights and that of the East, particularly Islam" he said.

"After the Renaissance, the West concluded that in order to achieve freedom, there has got to be a move away from religion; and that's understandable considering the anti-freedom role Christianity played during the Medieval Period. And it was thus the concept of secularism found its way into the Western thinking," the deputy to the president said.

Speaking of the Fatwa against Rushdie, Mohajerani said that in the Koran a person who commits a "Sabb" (insulting the prophet) is to be punished by death only. "Sabb", he stressed is an even graver sin than apostasy which is subjected to various categories of punishment.

"Moreover, the Fatwa is valid and irreversible because the late Imam did not issue it as a political leader, but as a Faqih (Islamic jurisprudent), so it is only natural for the edict to collide with the secular beliefs dominant in the West."

The other reason behind the West's animosity against the Islamic Republic, according to Mohajerani, is the West's lack of tolerance for the revolutionary fervor spreading all over the Muslim world—a spirit which he says the West will resort to anything to contain.

"One way to do it is to hack at the root of this movement, which is the religious beliefs of the faithful. And the blasphemous "Satanic Verses" tried to do just that. "The choice of the genre (a novel) too was appropriate. By adopting the style of magical realism and the element of fantasy, the writer tires to veil the insult and shield it under the cover of artistic and intellectual freedom. But, through his decree, Imam challenged the whole notion of human rights in the West, an idea which is based on the concept of secularism," Mohajerani explained.

"We are familiar with the attitude of Western governments. If we cave in to their pressure on one issue, they will come up with another, and the next, until we are forced into complete submission," he said.

Mohajerani, however, said that the Islamic Republic of Iran is all for establishing good relations with all countries, except Israel and the U.S., and he regretted the misunderstanding in the West about this country.

"But Iran will do its best to prevent a crisis between this country and friendly Western nations," he said.

Referring to the unfavorable response by some Iranian papers to the letter by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to the heads of the European Community, Mohajerani said: "It is wrong to believe that this was an attempt to communicate from a position of weakness. Having good relations with England by no means amounts to foregoing our fundamental principles. The late Imam too corresponded with Gorbachev at the peak of our problems with the former Soviet Union.

"In order to better defend our ideals, we have to adopt the right language and correct political stands. We cannot afford to have our guard closed forever; we have to believe in ourselves and move from a position of strength. A wired-off danger area might pose some risks to a man who does not know how to protect himself from electrocution, but a well-trained electrician never has to worry."

Concern Voiced at Minister Confidence Vote

LD0403093593 Tehran IRNA in English 0903 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Tehran, March 4, IRNA—An Iranian daily here Thursday [4 March] wrote that the last Tuesday's vote of confidence by the Majlis deputies to the minister of roads and transportation, despite all the mismanagements in his ministry, may mean that ministers could not always be held fully responsible for deficiencies in their offices.

The editorial in the English daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' said the facts and figures put forward by the parliament members on the mismanagements in the ministry "were more than enough to put the word 'ex' before the name of the man in charge of the transportation ministry, Mohammad Sa'idi-Kia."

However, the daily added, "when elected deputies of the people vote to keep a cabinet minister in or out of office, the ruling has to be respected by all those who subscribe for the free and fair debate. The parliament brought a mountain of poor-management cases against the minister of transportation, MPs debated the issue in full which was broadcast on the radio from start to finish, Mr. Sa'idi-Kia responded to each and every complaint and at day's end was not declared out."

On the positive aspects of what took place in the Majlis, the daily believed, "the debate was conducted in a free, frank and friendly atmosphere without any semblance of ill-will or personal grudge."

Furthermore, it noted, the parliament's use of its constitutional right to impeach a minister in an open session would "help bring a sense of awareness to those in key posts and at the same time convey the message that with responsibility comes accountability."

"And finally, our nation and Islamic system will stand to gain if at regular intervals the Majlis deputies take stock of how the ministers and their teams are performing their assigned duties and on the basis of their mandate proceed strongly and realistically to curb mismanagement, inefficiency, mis-conduct and negligence."

Iraqi Portrayal of Iran as 'Potential Threat' Viewed

NC0403153993 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 1 Mar 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Iraq Trying To Get Out of Isolation"]

[Text] Incoming reports indicate that Saddam Husayn has dispatched messages to the leaders of the Iraqi Kurds calling on them to sit at the negotiation table. This, of course, is not the first time that Baghdad has demanded to hold talks with the Kurdish leaders.

Over the past 12 years, whenever Baghdad felt in need of more respite at the international level, it turned toward the Kurds but never kept up its promises. The last such negotiations took place in 1991 in the aftermath of the Persian Gulf war.

At the said time, the two main Kurdish leaders, [Kurdistan Democratic Party leader] Mas'ud Barzani and [Patriotic Union of Kurdistan leader] Jalal Talabani went to Baghdad. After several rounds of talks, the Iraqi regime forgot all about its promises when it reached its favorable result at the international level.

But to get to the present situation. Following the victory of Bill Clinton and the Democratic Party in the U.S., Saddam Husayn and his administration are making every effort to present the Iraq-U.S. problem as one that was actually between George Bush and Saddam Husayn, trying to show that with Bush's tenure of office over, there is no longer any need for continued hostility between the two countries.

In the past two years, Iraq endeavored to make a rift in the views held by Iran, Turkey, Syria, and Saudi Arabia over the existing ruling system in Iraq. But it has fallen short of so doing. The general agreement among Iran, Syria, and Turkey—which as perceived in the recent Damascus meet enjoyed the tacit agreement of Saudi Arabia as well—has made the situation difficult for the Baghdad leaders.

Iraq feels it is in need of 2 parameters to reach proximity with the U.S.:

1) To present the Islamic Republic of Iran as a potential threat for the region and a source of concern for the West and to portray the Iraqi regime as the sole force that could control Iran. The Baghdad leaders have explicitly pursued this matter in the past months.

2) The inhuman treatment meted out by Baghdad to the ethnic minorities, especially the Kurds, has provided a horrendous picture and image of this regime in the eyes of the West and before the world public opinion.

Now through making suggestions of talks to the Kurdish leaders, Saddam Husayn wants to picture his regime at the international level as devoid of any problems with the Kurds. Today, it is crystal clear to all the Kurdish leaders and to all other opposition leaders in Iraq that the Ba'th Party ruling over Iraq is by no means willing to grant the people or their representatives even a small share of the power.

Kurdish Deputy Says Kurds Have 'Complete Freedom'

NC0403180893 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 28 Feb 93 pp 1, 15

[TEHRAN TIMES city desk report on an interview with Majles Deputy 'Abdolrahim Nurbakhsh]

[Text] Tehran—A Majles deputy said yesterday that the Kurdish community living here "considers himself first an Iranian and then a Kurd."

Member of the Iranian Parliament 'Abdolrahim Nurbakhsh in an interview with the TEHRAN TIMES said that the Kurdish community here consider themselves part and parcel of the Islamic system of Iran.

Nurbakhsh, himself a Kurd, was elected from Mahabad, capital of Kordestan.

He said that Kordestan is a sensitive part of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the same was true during the Shah's regime before the culmination of the Islamic Revolution in 1979.

"But," Nurbakhsh said, "the sensitivity of the question of Iranian Kordestan has become accelerated after the establishment of the Islamic system here which put the interest of the oppressive powers in jeopardy."

"The oppressors, may be Western or certain Muslim countries who would like to have bridge through which they could reach the masses of Iran to make propaganda against the Islamic system in this country," Nurbakhsh, 41, said.

Before his first election to the Fourth Term of the Majles Nurbakhsh was an official at the Ministry of Education. He admitted that at the beginning of the foundation of the Islamic Republic of Iran there was opposition among the Kurds which was a consequence of the "direct impact of the propaganda of grouplets."

"Gradually, the people realized the real nature of these grouplets, their alliance with foreign powers, their financial support by foreign countries and above all their being against Islam and all this opened the eyes of the Kurds and now such influences are almost nil," he said.

Nurbakhsh, married, with three children, said that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn came into power in 1979 and since then has tried to lure the Iranian Kurds and hoped they would stand against Iran.

"All such efforts had no impact now because of certain basic steps by the Islamic Republic of Iran," he said.

"Contrary to the practice in other countries, the Kurds here in Iran have full freedom for the development of their culture, customs, language and social values," he said.

He singled out Turkey and said that Ankara had imposed a ban on language, dress, customs and other social values of the Kurdish community and they are being harassed by the Turkish government just because they are Kurds.

In Iran it is not like that. We have complete freedom to develop our own ethnic culture and social activities," he said.

"We feel proud of being Iranian first and then Kurds," he said, adding, "You won't find such a thing in other countries where Kurds live."

He recalled the 15th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution on February 10 when a massive rally was witnessed in Kordestan by the people which was also shown on Iranian television.

"Much has been done and more is to be done for the Kurdish community by our government," Nurbakhsh said.

He said that right now two magazines in the Kurdish languages are being published. They are the Servey, which is a name of a bird and also means messenger. Another is a magazine called the Aveneh, which means mirror.

Both are published by the Salah al-Din al-Ayyubi Publishing Institute. Salah al-Din was an historical figure who fought for Islam in the past.

High Cost of Visas Impeding UK-Iran Travel

LD0403231393 Tehran IRNA in English 1623 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] London, March 4, IRNA—The sudden massive increase in the cost of Iranian visas for British nationals has led tour operators to call for a two-tier system to differentiate visitors from businessmen. Jasmin tours has booked more than 400 people to go to the Islamic Republic next month, but the company says that it has been inundated with calls since visa prices jumped from 14 pounds to 504 pounds in February.

Like Iranian families with British relatives, tour operators are hoping that they will be excluded from the higher rate, similar to that of the concessionary rate of 25 pounds for pilgrims. The massive rise is attributed to the sudden increase last year by the British Embassy in Tehran for visa from 1,200 rials to 50,000 rials. A further issue is that the charge is made whether or not a visa is granted.

Foreign Office officials insist that the change was based upon recalculating the price on the free market rate of exchange as opposed to the official rate and has no political motives. A trade mission organized by the

London Chamber of Commerce has also expressed its concern about the size of the rise that will grossly increase the cost of its plans to take 20 British firms to Iran in May. But with prices both in Tehran and London at similar levels in terms of the respective costs of living, there appears to be a stalemate at least for businessmen unless a compromise solution can be found by the two countries.

Velayati Receives Burkina Faso Foreign Minister

LD0403153693 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1415 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Burkina Faso's foreign minister, Mr. Thomas Sanou, and his accompanying delegation, who arrived in Tehran last night, met with Iran's Foreign Minister Mr. Velayati this morning. During the meeting, mutual ties, international and regional issues, as well as the two sides' cooperation at the Islamic Conference Organization and the Nonaligned Movement were touched upon.

Mr. Velayati then stressed the two countries' cooperation regarding international issues, expressing Iran's concern on the (?dilemmas) existing in the various regions in the world. The Iranian foreign minister referred to problems in Africa, and emphasized that the African states now more than at any other time need to spend their internal resources on their progress.

Mr. Velayati also pointed to Serbian crimes in Bosnia-Hercegovina, calling for greater seriousness and efforts by the Islamic Conference Organization and the international community to prevent the Serbs' aggression.

While expressing concern over the massacre of innocent Africans, Mr. Velayati said U.S. intervention in Somalia is the main cause behind the deterioration of the situation in that country, and characterized as mandatory the national determination to bring about progress and development in Africa.

Interview With Departing DPRK Ambassador

NC2602210193 Tehran SALAM in Persian 17 Feb 93 p 12

["Exclusive interview" with departing DPRK Ambassador Hwang Sun-muk "on the eve of his departure from Tehran" by an unidentified SALAM correspondent; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The departing DPRK envoy discussed bilateral relations, saying: Kim Il-song has always attached great importance to the broadening of bilateral relations. He added: I hope that with the conclusion of my tour, bilateral relations will be maintained even more. I am leaving your country with a feeling of pride. [passage omitted]

[SALAM] Mr. Ambassador: What is your opinion on the accusations leveled by the United States regarding cooperation between our two countries?

[Hwang] There is no U.S. or Americanized viewpoint in either of our countries. The imperialist United States and other Western countries are afraid of the friendship and closeness of our two countries. This relationship is like a thorn in the side of U.S. imperialism. If you appraise things sincerely, you will realize that the United States is the world's largest arms broker. It dispatches and sells weapons and missiles to other countries easily and without any restrictions; however, it condemns other countries that do the same. We fear no country regarding our close economic and political ties with Iran, with whom we will continue our friendship.

[SALAM] The United States has accused North Korea of being a terrorist state. What is your view on the subject?

[Hwang] The United States is itself the ringleader and supporter of international terrorism; it attacks and aggresses against various countries. It tramples on human rights as well. The stances of the DPRK and the Islamic Republic of Iran on the United States are very clear. The United States is trying to pressure other countries by using the pretexts of terrorism and human rights. Human rights are truly respected in Iran and the DPRK.

Turkish-Russian Influence in Central Asia Viewed

LD0203214693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In the opinion of political observers: in consideration of the role played by Russia and Turkey in the Karabakh war, the talks with [word indistinct] officials can certainly put an end to the current stalemate.

Irrespective of international and regional issues, the ties between Turkey and Russia have been expanded considerably over the past couple of years. According to analysts of political affairs Ankara is trying to keep its relations with Russia at a desirable level for the sake of having further influence in Caucasia and Central Asia. This is because that despite the disintegration of the Soviet Empire the Russians have still retained their past influence in those two regions. Therefore Turkey is inclined to strengthen ties, its foothold there through coordination with Russia.

On this basis it seems the talks have been held by Cetin and Kozyrev on recent events on Central Asia and also on the escalating crisis in Caucasia.

From the viewpoint of Turkish statesmen due to the elimination of the communist ideology from the current policies governing these regions, the need for substituting the governments of those countries with the laic system and molding the Western style democracy in them is significant. To this end Ankara is trying through the Western support to persuade the leaders of those states in emulating the model of Turkey's laic government.

For the Russian Government too, which is immensely concerned over the growth of Islamic tendency in Central Asia and Caucasia, this strategy is acceptable. Even though the Russians are unwilling to completely abandon their position in favor of Turkey in these regions, they are somehow inclined to grant necessary privileges to the Ankara government in order to appease the West.

At any rate it must be said that one year after the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the independent republics which are the inheritors of the former Soviet empire are still undergoing certain changes.

Therefore one cannot right now say with certainty as to what the political and economic posturing of these regions will be in the future.

Afghan Factions Urged To Show Flexibility

LD0303153493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1159 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Talks between Afghanistan's warring parties in Islamabad, is the title of our first political commentary for today. The question of how to resolve the crisis in Afghanistan—which is a major event in contemporary history, especially in the history of South Asia—is a question that has been under review since yesterday at the joint session of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, leaders of Afghanistan and opposition groups. On the first day of that session which was also attended by our country's deputy foreign minister [Ala'eddin Borujerdi], the leaders of parties opposed to Borhanoddin Rabbani's government, reached general agreement on the point that in the event of exisiting differences being resolved, to put an end to the war steps will be taken to ensure that everyone hands in their weapons and that a military commission to supervise the cease-fire and create a national army, be formed. [passage omitted]

Although most of the leaders and representatives of opposition groups are participating for the first time in talks with the government to end differences, still, considering that the opposition groups are committed to their stances, one cannot expect these groups to reach final agreement very quickly. Internal developments in Afghanistan, especially after the fall of Najib's government and the intensification of opposition between jihad groups have been such that that country had difficulties in establishing a stable Islamic government. [passage omitted]

The leaders of jihad groups are insisting on their intransigence at a time when every day tens of the suffering people of that country are killed and wounded as a result of the missile and artillery attacks of some of these groups. Meanwhile, what appears to be important is that the battle for power in Kabul will tempt foreign powers to interfere in the affairs of Afghanistan—and this not only conflicts with the national interests of that country, but also threatens to seriously harm the national security of Afghanistan's neighboring countries.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, because of its Islamic stances, and also because of its position as a neighbor of Afghanistan, cannot accept the situation that has arisen in Kabul and naturally, it calls for a speedy end to the clashes and the establishment of long- lasting peace so that the suffering people of Afghanistan can get on with rebuilding their country in an atmosphere of calm and tranquillity. In this respect, the Islamic Republic of Iran's political delegation in Islamabad is making serious efforts toward achieving a peaceful solution. It is clear that the adoption of an intransigent stance by the hostile groups cannot help the mediation efforts being pursued seriously by the countries of the region. For these efforts to achieve results, the warring parties need to show flexibility. They also need to be aware of the fact that compromise will not be basically possible without flexibility.

[Tehran IRNA in English at 1449 GMT on 3 March, in a Tehran- datelined item, carries the following: "The English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' Wednesday [3 March] expressed hope that the talks between the Afghan mujahideen groups and the Pakistani leaders would not come out with hasty decisions such was the case with Peshawar meeting of April 1992. The ongoing talks in Islamabad is the last chance for the mujahideen to reach an agreement for restoring peace and calm in Afghanistan, wrote the daily in its editorial. Since the removal of Najibollah from power, the Afghan people have suffered too much form the mujahideen performances, the prevailing catastrophic situation in Afghanistan leaves no opportunity for losing time, it continued.

"In their effort to seize power, the mujahideen groups have embarked on massacre and demolition, indicating their political immaturity. "Actually what the mujahideen groups have done in the past months has been national suicide." "The Pakistani leaders should know that Iran and the entire public opinion of the world of Islam go for the success of the Islamabad meet because the recent events, furthermore serve as a disgrace for all those who sought the establishment of an Islamic government in Afghanistan."]

Deputy Foreign Minister on Policy in Central Asia

NC2602204293 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 22 Feb 93 p 5

[Report on "exclusive" interview with 'Abbas Maleki, deputy foreign minister and director of the Institute for Political and International Studies, by staff correspondent Mehrdad Bilali, in Tehran; date not given]

[Text] Tehran—"The liberation of the Central Asian Republics and Afghanistan from the communist rule has helped to balance the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran," said the Director of the Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS), 'Abbas Maleki, in an exlclusive interview with the TEHRAN TIMES.

"The presence of the former Soviet Union at our northern border had limited our relationships with our neighbors to contacts within the framework of ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization], or through the Persian Gulf," says Maleki, "but now we have a much wider spectrum."

While the sub-system of Persian Gulf links Iran to the Middle East, says Maleki, the sub-system of Asia would connect the Islamic Republic to Asian countries and bring further security to this country.

This new opportunity has prompted Iran to be extremely active in the new region. "Our hope is that Russia would view itself as being part of Asia, or at least as a Euro-Asian country, and group itself with other Non-Aligned nations like China, India, Pakistan, and Iran in order to establish a solid and strong economic and political front against the West.

Referring to a 1992 speech by the foreign minister of Japan in which he called for a shift from global to regional involvement, Maleki expressed hope that would result in further advancement.

"We have the oil, Japan the technology, China the labor, and Central Asian countries the agriculture: therefore, an intermingling of these economies could bring prosperity to the continent."

On its part, the IPIS has taken the first step toward such future cooperations and established contact with the similar institutes in these countries as well as Europe and America. One of the aims of the IPIS is to further knowledge about Central Asia and explore common interests in the area. Joint conferences with study centers in Florida, Munich and Japan have focused on a range of topics from the collapse of "the Soviet Union" to "Central Asia in transition" to "the economy of Central Asia." This summer, IPIS will cosponsor a seminar in Beijing on the same subject.

But the IPIS is engaged in other activities with respect to Central Asia—like a direct exchange of information and materials with other research institutes.

"What we are after is to accumulate a complete literature on Central Asia and learn more about the region.

"We should remember that our background information on these republics is not so complete. During the Soviet rule, it was impossible for us to visit the area; whereas Westerners were occasionally allowed to go there. We think it is useful to share their information."

Maleki believes that Iran enjoys a unique strategic position with respect to Central Asia and credits the country's natural presence in the area for the rapid reestablishment of ties upon the liberation of these republics.

"We are Azerbaijan's biggest trade partner and a major economic partner to Turkmenistan. We have signed numerous agreements with Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan and provided Nakhichevan with its basic necessities like food and energy. This is not to mention the efforts of our private sector which is equally active in the region." Maleki however rejects the notion that the Islamic Republic is in competition with other countries for more influence in the area.

"Our activities in Central Asia are merely a response to a call from these countries for help. Due to over 70 years of Russian dominance, many aspects of these societies are still undeveloped," says Maleki.

"So any kind of help extended to these countries to overcome their problems is definitely welcome. What Turkey can do is certainly different from what we can provide. But we all should do our fair share. Now that the initial euphoria has subsided, we can thoroughly evaluate the situation—not in the sense who is the winner or the loser but in terms of how to coordinate and consolidate our supports for these countries."

Reactions to Tajikistan 'Islamic Tendency' Viewed

LD2802220093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] The defense ministers of six out of the 11 members of the Commonwealth of Independent States concluded their one-day meeting in Moscow yesterday. In this closed-door meeting, presided over by Marshal Shaposhnikov, the commander of the CIS Forces, the defense ministers of Kazakhstan, Armenia, and Kyrgyzstan as well as the deputy defense ministers of Russia, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan discussed the subject of boosting the defense capability of the member states and expansion of military cooperation within the CIS.

Out of the 11 members of the CIS, the six aforementioned governments have signed the collective security agreement based on which any likely attack against a member should be countered by others. According to informed sources, Russia, by relying on this agreement, is trying to persuade the other signatories of the accord to dispatch troops to Tajikistan so that Moscow may not be construed as the sole advocate of the communist government in Dushanbe encountering the Islamic and nationalist forces of Tajikistan. The reason is that in the opinion of political observers, the Russian troops within the framework of the 201st Mechanized Division are engaged in the operations in Tajikistan, and under the cover of the CIS forces are seeking to prevent a repetition of the experience gained by the Russian troops in the war against Afghanistan. Based on an article carried by the

Moscow-based IZVESTIYA, in the event of the spread of the war being waged by Islamic and nationalist forces of Tajikistan against the Russian Army, Moscow will again be confronting the Islamic world, and the repetition of that experience would be very unpleasant for the Russians. It is said that collective security and dispatch of troops as peace-keepers to the common frontiers of Tajikistan and Afghanistan were among the main subjects discussed at the Saturday meeting.

Analysts of political affairs believe that in view of the events which have occurred in Tajikistan during the past one year, attention to its security is been paid mostly due to the spread of Islam in the Central Asian state rather than on account of concern for the security of its neighbors. This is because the governments which have remained unaffected since earlier times in the Central Asian states have mainly preserved the former system and have harmonized themselves with the current political and economic conditions at international level by merely introducing certain changes.

In the midst, the growth of Islamic tendency in Tajikistan is worrisome for both Russia and the West. For this very reason, despite the differences existing between the former communists and the reformists ruling in Moscow, there has been forged an identity of views between the local communists and the Russian reformists in the Central Asian countries. It is interesting to note that America, too, by addressing a letter to the speaker of the Tajik Parliament, has lent its support to the current policy of Tajikistan, pledging to extend aid worth $25 million to Dushanbe. Therefore it seems natural that at the Saturday session of the CIS defense ministers, the manner of dispatching troops to Tajikistan may have been discussed as the most important subject on the agenda.

However, it must be said that the experience of the 12 year-long war waged by the Russians in Afghanistan has duly proved that in order to govern the Muslim masses, reliance on foreign troops may be effective on a short-term basis, but in the long run there will remain only those governments which rely on the popular vote and govern the masses through enforcing laws and by accepting the principles of popularity and legitimacy rather than on the strength of force.

Formation of 'New Global Economic Order' Urged

NC0403151293 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 23 Feb 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Long-Term Economic Ends"]

[Text] After eight years of imposed war and manifold economic tangles, the Islamic Republic of Iran has—since three years back—embarked on systematizing its economy and having a more powerful presence in the global markets.

Toward this end, Iran has commenced a rapid movement by way of adopting the policy of free economy and divesting the production units to the private sector. In this way, the country can ultimately recognize the relative advantage of its production, promote the quality of its products, and strengthen the industries which have a high value added at home, thus making the economy flourish.

As with other developing and developed countries, Iran has been gripped by some difficulties in reaching this objective and is trying to eliminate them. But the important consideration is the international aspect of the matter and presence in the global markets. Currently, the global markets are somewhat divided between the developed countries and some developing countries. It is, therefore, somewhat difficult for the latter to take part in these markets.

In view of the recent developments in the global economy and changes in the balance of economic power, it is high time that these developed countries encounter other countries with a more positive and logical approach in terms of international relations. These should not be content with temporary and flashy benefits and interests.

Now is the time to cast a glance at international relations with foresight and realism and to optimally specify the position and status of all countries. This measure will warrant long-term interests for all concerned parties.

Then the new global economic order should be precisely and logically drawn up, ensuring that other countries could also be present and active in the global markets. This move is more logical.

If this measure is not taken, then there will be disruption in the international economy, and it is not clear which country would then come out of this whirlpool safe and sound.

In a not-too-distant future, Iran with an economic groundwork and through utilization of its special domestic sources and facilities and by eliminating the existing economic hurdles, together with other developing countries, will have a close competition with the developed industrial countries.

Economic Liberalization Said To Require Study

NC0403155493 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 1 Mar 93 p 2

[Editorial: "In Search of an Economic Solution"]

[Text] It is not unusual to see prices go up in the months, specially the last month, before the coming of the new Iranian year. But this year the prices are going up at a crazy rate, giving rumor mongers the chance to further spread false news and worry the people about the state of the economy to come next year.

The Iranian public, particularly the economically vulnerable class or those with limited incomes and fixed salaries—which often includes government employees—

are specially demoralized by the rising prices and the spreading rumors, since it becomes ever more difficult for them to make ends meet. And every year there is a government economic plan to be implemented during the following year that helps fuel the rumors and the expectations of difficult times ahead.

This coming year it will be the plan by the Islamic Republic to introduce uniform floating exchange rate. Formerly there were three different rates: official, competitive and free-market, each of which were obtained at a different price for different people. The plan to float the foreign exchange rate, although its details and the manner of implementation have not been spelled out yet, has caused a lot of fear about possible renewed inflationary spiral among people and influenced many economic activities.

The exchange rate reform is part of a greater economic reform. And what is certain about it is that when and if implemented it will be radically different from what was previously practiced. The Islamic Republic's previous economic policy was characterized by centralization, growing government size, limited private sector role and excessive regulations. The economic reform, the floating of foreign exchange rate is one aspect of which, is characterized by decentralization, cutting government size through merger of the redundant ministries or organs and elimination of others, creating opportunities for the private sector (both Iranians and foreigners) to invest by removing hurdles among others. In short, the government is determined to adopt market economy criteria.

There are, of course, reasons why the Islamic Republic practiced centralization or a highly controlled economy before and why it is promoting market economy now. The characteristics of the Iranian economy as existed before were primarily due to the imposed war and what it necessitated. To the war should be added the U.S. economic sanction and the government's perception of itself as not having been fully in control—i.e., a question of confidence.

But things have changed now. The war is over, the country has learned to bypass the U.S. sanction, and more important of all the government is fully and indisputably established. In short, there is no reason why the Islamic Republic should ignore realities and avoid implementing one of the centerpieces of the revolution: namely economic justice.

There are a lot of people happy about the government's planned transition of the economy from what it was before to generally an open economy. But just as there are people who support it, there are people who advocate continued state domination of the economy. However, what should be kept in mind is that just as there was high toll to pay for excessive government control, there will be high toll to pay if market economy is implemented with inadequate study and preparation.

Though each country has unique economic characteristics of its own, it can nevertheless learn from the experiences of others dealing or having dealt with similar problems. Iran can and should learn from the experience of other Third World countries which have completed the transition.

Take for instance the uniform exchange rate, as the most immediate aspect of the greater economic reform plan and one which has got the public jittery. Instead of implementing the plan and then try to deal with the costly and unwanted consequences of it, Iran can use the experience of others in this connection.

Take the Soviet ruble for instance. It was freed from state control and floated on the Moscow currency exchange last July as a first step to eventual convertibility and as part of the reforms to create a market economy. But it has nosedived from 162 to the dollar to a record low of 593. That is because investors seek the U.S. currency as a hedge against rampant inflation. The same thing can happen in Iran.

To stop the deteriorating condition of the ruble, Russia's Central Bank has proposed to sacrifice free market principles and reintroduce a fixed exchange rate. Other countries on the path to a market economy such as Poland, the former Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania,... have taken the same decision in the face of the problems posed.

Therefore, and to make a long story short, if the Islamic Republic does not implement its economic liberalization plan carefully and with enough study it will get away from spreading economic justice and will further polarize the economy. As a result of the government mistake, it will be the most vulnerable class of the society and those most in need of its help that will suffer the most.

Khamene'i Meets With Qom Theological School Council

LD2802180293 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] Ayatollah Khamene'i, the esteemed leader of the revolution, yesterday met members of the supreme planning council of the Qom theological school. He thanked God that through his blessing the first steps have been taken by the teachers and leaders of the theological school toward the organization and proper discipline of the school. He also thanked the members of the council for their efforts and expressed satisfaction with the proper progress of the work.

The esteemed leader expressed the hope that all the gentlemen and the honored students and teachers of the Qom theological school will cooperate so that this great movement will reach its destiny. He also urged the council and the management of the theological school to benefit from the present opportunity and use the views of the experts in order to continue planning for this desired movement.

Finally, the leader of the Islamic revolution emphasized the need for the organization of propagation and sermons and the use of computers and other modern methods in planning and execution, as well as the use of theological titles and methods in all fields including that of academic documents.

In the meeting, before the leader of the Islamic revolution spoke, Ayatollah Makarem Shirazi, the secretary of the planning council of Qom theological school, reported on the decisions made by the council in the past few months, the drawing up of a constitution, and the list of priorities prepared by the council for the theological schools. Ayatollah Mo'men, the principal of the Qom school, reported to the esteemed leader of the revolution on the activities of the council, including the organization, planning, appointment of deputies, examinations, selection of students, and other issues concerning the theological school.

'Weakness' Cited in Dealing With Natural Disasters

NC2702113093 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 16 Feb 93 p 1

[Editorial: "A National Catastrophe"]

[Text] The recent heavy rainfall and ensuing floods have caused severe damage in the western, southern, and southeastern areas of Iran. Initial estimates show that more than 600 billion rials of damage has been incurred so far and there is nothing to preclude further incidents due to the cold weather and the coming spring rainfalls.

There is no doubt that rain is a divine blessing for the semi-arid country of Iran and that it plays an important economic role by replenishing subterranean water reserves and by irrigating dry lands. But the catastrophes that stem from the damage to fields, houses, public buildings, wells, economic installations, and utilities and—more important still—from the deaths of our dear compatriots is a problem that should receive due attention. One of the major reasons for floods in the various central and southern areas of Iran in the past was the absence of the necessary means to divert waters and inattention to preventative measures. This situation continued after the Revolution for a number of reasons, but the vulnerability of our villages and major agricultural centers to such natural disasters dictates the need for more attention to changes in our infrastructure. The construction of artificial ponds in those areas that face the possibility of seasonal floods, making use of natural conditions to plan necessary dams and sink wells, and the creation of strong flood barriers in rural and urban areas are among the major points which should be actively pursued. Even though important steps have been taken in this direction during the post-revoluionary period and the actions of the Construction Jihad, the Land Distribution Organization, and other revolutionary bodies have been laudable, recent incidents have taught us that the steps that have been taken are insufficient. There is a need for more effective steps to be taken within the framework of special plans. The way the mass media deals with such incidents is also important. Unfortunately, the press, the mass media in general, and other circles have not attached the necessary significance to this issue. This clearly shows our weakness in setting our priorities.

Because of the extent of the financial damage and itheir impact on the lives of a large segment of the population, the recent flood is a national catastrophe, the realities of which should be better reflected. The extremely weak approach by radio and television to this problem has been the main reason for the low-key reaction to this problem. Since we do not have a strong and effective center to deals with the timely dispatch of help in the case of such unexpected incidents, the best way to organize rapid relief is by mobilizing the people. The mass media can and should carry out their duties for this public mobilization in the best possible way. The Red Crescent has repeatedly stated that it lacks the resources to meet various needs. Thus, in order to face such natural disasters, we need to resort to public mobilization.

ABRAR's Publisher Summoned on Libel Charge

LD0303192593 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Text] Tehran, March 3, IRNA—Publisher of the Persian daily 'ABRAR' Ghafur Garshassbi was summoned to the Magistrate Court of Tehran today apparently for having published libel-type materials that had led to complaints by persons and corporate bodies.

The Public Relations Office of the Court said in a press release Wednesday [3 March] that the paper had repeatedly published materials with unscrupulous allegations against persons sometimes followed by either subsequent denials or corrections by way of apology or reminder to readers or explanation.

It said on various previous occasions the publisher of the daily had been warned against writing scandalous, defamatory, or insulting articles against persons which, the press release said, the daily had not observed.

Details of the charges against the publisher are yet to be issued.

'ABRAR' is a post-revolution major Persian morning daily printed in Tehran.

Figures Show 54 Percent Rise in Value of Exports

LD2702135993 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1230 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] The exports of Iran's National Industries Organization in the first 10 months of this year [starting 21

March 1992] reached $34,076,000. For the same period last year, this figure stood at $22,150,000. On the basis of the report of Iran's National Industries Organization, the level of exports this year shows a 54 percent rise as compared with last year. In the course of this period, the textile and household goods industries had the highest figures for exports while the Export Company of Iran's National Industries Organization had the lowest.

Mineral Exports Fetch 17 Billion Rials in 1989-1990

LD0303184693 Tehran IRNA in English 1610 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Text] Tehran, March 3, IRNA—Mineral exports fetched the country rls [rials] 17 billion in 1989-90 with lead and zinc alone accounting for rls 12.9 billion or 76 percent of the total share.

According to Iran's Statistics Centre here today, chromite exports were worth rls 2.3 billion and sulphate strontium rls 0.9 billion.

It said the total mineral yield in Iran during the period was rls 136 billion, of which coal accounted for rls 35 billion and ornamental stones for rls 18.9 billion.

Of the rls 198 billion invested in the mining sector in 1989-90, said the centre, rls 5.8 billion was the share of coal and rls 2.8 billion the share of ornamental stones.

Of the 1,226 active mines in the year, 156 were limestone mines (12.7 percent) and 117 were stone slab mines (9.5 percent).

Khuzestan Province with 94 mines had a 7.7 percent share in the national yield while Esfahan with 93 mines had a 7.6 percent share and Khorasan with 92 mines had a 7.5 percent share.

According to the statistics abcut 47,000 workers were engaged in the mining sector during 1989-90.

Phosphate Mines Ready for Exploitation

LD0203202193 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Excerpts] This is a report on the discovery and exploitation of phosphate mines in the province of Kohkiloyeh va boyer Ahmad. According to this report, greater investment in the mining of phosphate in this province would supply one-fifth of the country's demand for phosphate.

[Unidentified correspondent] Of the country's 620 million tonne phosphate deposit, 420 million tonnes have been discovered and are ready for exploitation in the town of Gachsaran of the province of Kohkiloyeh va Boyer Ahmad. [passage omitted]

Preliminary research of the mines were carried throughout the first [five-year] development plan by the Ministry of Mines and Metals with a plan for the discovery of phosphate. Until now 800 million rials have been spent for the search and minning operations. [passage omitted]

This is the largest phosphate deposit in the country and was discovered in 1987 after a systematic search for phosphate in the Zagrus mountains. The current demand for phosphate in the country is 2.545 million tonnes and with the start of the Kuh-e Lar phosphate processing factory in Gachsaran—which has an optimum capacity of 475,000 tonnes of concentrated phosphate with a 34.7 purity after processing—it can supply one-fifth of the country's demand. [passage omitted]

Southern Port Increases Non-Oil Exports

LD2702150293 Tehran IRNA in English 1449 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Ganaveh, Hormuzgan Prov., Feb. 27, IRNA—Non-oil exports from this southern port to littoral Arab states of Persain Gulf during the Iranian month of Bahman (January 21-February 19) were up by 30 percent compared to the corresponding period last year.

A total of 1,315 tons of non-oil commodities, worth rls. [rials] 152 million, were exported during the period.

Meanwhile during the same period 192 tons of goods were imported through the port, down by 75 percent, compared to the same period last year, said a customs official of the port here Saturday [27 February].

Among the items exported were clothes, detergents, heaters and stoves. The imports were mainly automobiles and transformers.

Nuclear Station Construction Reported Postponed

93P50082A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Mar 93 p 1

[Text] London, Tehran—Informed sources in Tehran said yesterday that Iran has decided to postpone the construction of four nuclear power stations "for financial and political reasons."

It was decided to apply the data to begin the preliminary work on one of these stations this week, but [this work] was postponed without a reason being given.

Two stations were supposed to be built with the aid of China, while Russia signed an agreement to help build the third station. The operation to construct the fourth one was begun with the help of Germany before the revolution. In the last year, North Korea agreed to take over the task of completing the project.

It is worth mentioning that the Iranian nuclear program, which began in 1956, has faced heavy criticism from Western states recently out of fear that Iran will develop a nuclear military capability.

It was planned to begin work on the four stations before 1998, but Iranian experts now admit on a private level that this goal will not be achieved.

It is clear that the Iranian command is upset that it potentially faces sanctions on the charge of violating the nuclear weapons proliferation treaty that Iran signed before the revolution. At the same time, the government is preparing, in the opinion of analysts, to confront its problem with insufficient capital liquidity next year.

Iran has agreed to pay China, Russia, and North Korea in crude oil in return for their help.

However, the experts say that such barter deals have begun to be more difficult due to the decrease in Iran's oil production and the government's need for money.

Nepal

Trade, Industry Welcome Rupee Convertibility

BK0303152693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Text] Trade and industry in Nepal have welcomed the full convertibility of the Indian rupee and reduction in excise and customs duties on consumer goods as envisaged in the Indian budget proposals for 1993-94. The president of the Nepal Foreign Trade Association, Mr. Gajanan Agarwal, said in Kathmandu that these proposals will have an impact on the Nepalese trade. The Nepal Chamber of Commerce president said the price competitiveness of Indian products in the Nepalese market has attracted more people to go for Indian goods.

British Minister Meets Prime Minister Koirala

BK0403150493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1445 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Kathmandu, March 4 (AFP)—British Minister for Overseas Development Baroness Lynda Chalker met Nepal Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala here Thursday for talks on ties between the two countries, a Foreign Ministry source said.

Chalker, accompanying Diana, Princess of Wales, on a tour of Nepal, had earlier met Minister of State for Finance Mahesh Acharya to discuss British aid to Nepal.

During the talks with Koirala, the premier raised the subject of British assistance to Nepal to make up for cutbacks in the number of Gurkha soldiers in the British military following the handover of Hong Kong to China in 1997.

Koirala also discussed problems faced by Nepal following the recent influx of over 75,000 Bhutanese refugees of Nepalese origin.

Acharya earlier briefed Chalker on economic and fiscal measures implemented by the Koirala government and detailed industrial and trade policies.

Chalker said she welcomed the economic and fiscal reforms introduced by the government elected following the restoration of democracy in Nepal.

Aid projects in education, transport, forestry, environment protection and management training were discussed, the source said.

Prime Minister Opens UNFPA Office

BK0403153893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1520 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Kathmandu, March 4 (AFP)—Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala Thursday officially opened the country support team office of the United Nations Fund for Population [UNFPA] for South and West Asia, an official said.

UNFPA Executive Director Nafis Sadik and other senior officials of the UNDP [United Nations Development Program] in Kathmandu were also present.

"The process of development that does not hold people in the centre will not only fail to achieve the desired results but it will also be unsustainable," the prime minister said, emphasizing the need to control population growth.

"Finding an optimum balance between population and resources is of utmost importance," he said.

He highlighted Nepal's need to bring the population growth rate to a level supportable by available resources.

"Unchecked growth rate that gallops at an increasing pace will eat away a large chunk of resources generated by the economy and entrap the country in a vicious circle of poverty," he added.

Sadik said, "the region of south and west Asia, spanning Iran in the west to Bangladesh in the east and Nepal in the north to Sri Lanka in the south, had an estimated population of 1.2 billion in 1992 accounting for over one fifth of the world's total.

"The population of the region is increasing at a very high rate averaging well over two percent per annum," she cautioned.

"This average, however, masks the significant variation in population growth rates that pervades different countries of the region with the highest rate of 3.5 (percent) growth in Maldives, 2.6 percent in Iran, Pakistan and Nepal to 1.9 percent in India and 1.2 percent in Sri Lanka," she said.

Later addressing a press conference, Sadik, a former Pakistani health minister, said UNFPA had earmarked 19 million dollars in financial aid over four years to help the Nepalese government distribute condoms in rural and urban areas.

She said the 2.6 percent population growth had caused difficulties for the government, coupled with an influx of immigrants from outside.

Police Break Up Communist Protest

BK0503120193 Hong Kong AFP in English 1059 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] Kathmandu, March 5 (AFP)—Kathmandu police on Friday used batons and tear gas to break up communist-organized demonstrations against the government of Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, witnesses said.

The country's four communist factions had organized the demonstrations in Kathmandu and outlying districts to protest against price hikes for electricity and drinking water.

Hiranya Lal Shrestha, a Nepal Communist Party [NCP] member of Parliament, said NCP chairman Mana Mohan Aphikari, who also heads the party in the lower house of parliament, led nearly 4,000 communist activists, youths and students from the city's central marketplace to the Singha Durbar Central Secretariat.

The police had warned the protesters not to block traffic, witnesses said, adding that when the demonstrators failed to move out of the streets, police charged with batons and teargas. Several people were reported injured.

Later, angry MPs denounced the police action and demanded an apology from Home Minister Sher Bahadur Deupa, who defended the police response.

Pakistan

Further on Afghan Peace Talks, Adjournment

Tehran Reports Meeting

LD0403141093 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1230 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] The first joint session of the leaders of Afghanistan's jihad groups, who have gathered in Islamabad for a meeting, convened this afternoon in the Pakistan capital.

According to a Central News Unit report from Islamabad, Borhanoddin Rabbani, Golboddin Hekmatyar, Pir Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani, Mawlawi Mohammed Nabi Mohammadi, Karim Khalali, Ayatollah Asef Mohseni, and representatives of Sebghatollah Mojadeddi and Abdol Rasul Sayyaf are participating in the session. Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif also took part in the session, and the hostile sides embarked on direct talks. The talks are aimed at discussing and reviewing the latest positions held by the two sides with regard to the second draft proposal over which debate has continued since yesterday. No further reports have been issued on the details of these talks.

Sharif, Rabbani, Hekmatyar Meet

BK0403162493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, and the Afghan president, Mr. Borhanoddin Rabbani, and Mr. Golboddin Hekmatyar today had another joint meeting in Islamabad. Briefing newsmen in Islamabad this evening, the foreign secretary, Mr. Shaharyar M. Khan, said they discussed various aspects for a peaceful settlement of the remaining differences. He said there is continued progress in the talks and there are now matters which concern the Afghans themselves to be resolved.

Sharif: Agreement 'Closer'

BK0403154793 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] In Islamabad, crucial intra-Afghan talks are continuing to reach an agreement on the Afghan issue. The venue of the talks is the prime minister's house. Major political leaders of Afghanistan, including President Rabbani and Mr. Golboddin Hekmatyar are attending the talks to iron out their differences. The talks began on Monday at the initiative of Pakistan. The first meeting was held between Prime Minister Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif and the Afghan president, Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, today. This was the first meeting between the two leaders in which various aspects of the Afghan crisis were discussed. It includes to bring an end to fratricidal war In Afghanistan on a permament basis. The intra- Afghan dialogue organized by Pakistan is meant to promote a durable peace in Kabul amongst major Afghan political groups. Later, the prime minister had a separate meeting with other Afghan leaders, including Mr. Golboddin Hekmatyar. Pir Seyyed Ahmad Gaylani, Mawlavi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi, Shaykh Mohammad Asif Mohsini, Mr. Karim Khalili, and Dr. Najib Mojaddedi attended the meeting. The talks were constructive and positive and all the leaders are eager to have a durable peace in Afghanistan.

Later, the Afghan leaders held a joint meeting in an effort to reach a consensus agreement on the situation in Afghanistan. The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, was also present at the meeting. The leaders who attended the parleys include Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, Mr. Golboddin Hekmatyar, Pir Seyyed Ahmad Gaylani, Shaykh Mohammad Asif Mohsini, Mawlavi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi, Mr. Karim Khalili, and Dr. Najib Mojaddedi. After making hectic efforts, the prime minister was able to bring the two Afghan leaders—President Borhanoddin Rabbani and Mr. Golboddin Hekmatyar—face to face yesterday. After staying an hour in the meeting, the prime minister withdrew and the Afghan leaders continued their talks in a cordial atmosphere. According to an official spokesman, there has been a definite progress in the talks, but some of the issues are still to be resolved.

During the parleys, the attitude of the Afghan leaders was constructive, positive, and accommodating.

Later, talking to newsmen, the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, said there is no stumbling block on the issue of Afghanistan. Referring to today's talks, the prime minister said:

[Begin recording] [Sharif] I think, things seem quite encouraging, and I hope they will be able to resolve the issue.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Sharif, where are they apart?

[Sharif] Well, you see, the real factor to be, the modalities will have to be now finalized, and this is what they are now doing. Of course, all the party leaders are here. They are having separate meetings. They are also meeting collectively and I hope they will be able to reach an agreement very soon.

[Unidentified correspondent] When do you think, [changes thought] do you have any timeframe on when you will be able to wrap it up? You were very optimistic, you were close yesterday.

[Sharif] Yes, I can't say that. But I think they were close yesterday, but they are closer today.

[Unidentified correspondent] Closer today?

[Sharif] Yes.

[Unidentified correspondent] Prime Minister, Hezb-e Wahdat has some complaints about Rabbani staying for 18 months. Dostam wanted the defense ministry. Where are they? What details are they having trouble working out?

[Sharif] Well, the final details will come out once the agreement has been reached, but the majority does agree to accept Mr. Rabbani as president for 18 months.

[Unidentified correspondent] And Hekmatyar as prime minister?

[Sharif] There is a consensus on that also, barring one or two parties. [end recording]

The deputy foreign minister of Iran, Mr. 'Alla'eddin Borujerdi, called on the president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, in Islamabad today. They exchanged views on Afghan problem and expressed the hope that fighting in Afghanistan would come to an end and a permanent solution to the issue found. The president briefed the Iranian dignitary about his views regarding possible solution of Afghan issue and proposals put forward by him for the consideration of the Afghan leaders. The Iranian deputy foreign minister expressed his government's satisfaction and support for the ongoing efforts to solve the Afghan problem. He assured the president all help and assistance in bringing permanent peace and tranquility in Afghanistan.

Details of Draft Accord

BK0403161093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1412 GMT 4 Mar 93

[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Excerpts] Islamabad, March 4 (AFP)—Most Afghan leaders agreed here Thursday to allow President Borhanoddin Rabbani to retain office for 18 months while bitter rival Golboddin Hekmatyar became prime minister, Pakistani Premier Nawaz Sharif said. [passage omitted]

The power-sharing accord Sharif is brokering with Saudi Arabia and Iran's backing is still some way off, however, the prime minister added. [passage omitted]

The draft peace accord listed the posts of president, prime minister, and the defence, foreign affairs, interior and national security ministries as key offices of which no one party should hold more than one.

Sharif said the party leaders were meeting separately and collectively, discussing the distribution of ministries between themselves.

This would not prove to be a "stumbling block" to establishing a new government in Kabul, he said.

Responding to a comment that he appeared more optimistic Wednesday after arranging a face-to-face meeting between Hekmatyar and Rabbani, the first since the fall of pro-Moscow Najibollah regime in April, Sharif said, "If we were close yesterday, we are closer to a peace agreement today."

An accord was expected "any time after today," he said, although warning that the time for congratulations had not yet come. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile the Saudi Government Thursday highlighted the close coordination between Riyadh and Islamabad, which it said culminated in the Islamabad peace talks.

Recalling the meeting between Sharif and King Fahd early last month, an embassy statement said the Pakistani leader had translated "prudent Saudi policy and concerns of King Fahd into a concrete working plan."

Saudi intelligence chief Prince Turki al-Faysal has been participating in the negotiations since Monday, helping to "overcome obstacles," it said.

Besides the Saudi envoy, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Alaedin Borujerdi has also been taking part in the talks.

As talks progressed in Islamabad the Afghani rose against dollar with the exchange rate galloping from 1,340 to 1,000 a dollar, sources in Kabul said.

Witnesses reported bazaars were crowded and the day was quiet with little artillery fire.

Afghan general Baba Jan meanwhile denied reports of a coup in the Afghan capital triggered by two days of anti-government demonstrations by several hundred people in the capital's [word indistinct] District, where many loyalists to the previous regime live.

Foreign Secretary on Progress

BK0503014193 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0100 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif and two main Afghan leaders, President Borhanoddin Rabbani and Golboddin Hekmatyar, had another joint meeting in Islamabad yesterday. They discussed various aspects of a peaceful settlement of the remaining differences. Briefing newsmen on the ongoing talks between the Afghan leaders in Islamabad last night, Foreign Secretary Shaharyar Khan said there is continued progress in the talks and details of the agreement are being worked out. He added that the main aspect of the fourth day of continuous dialogue was the direct talks between the various Afghan groups. Shaharyar Khan said they met with each other individually and in small groups.

The foreign secretary said the prime minister is playing the central role in the negotiations. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif not only held talks with President Borhanoddin Rabbani and Hezb-e Eslami Chief Golboddin Hekmatyar, but conducted and took part in negotiations between them that took place in his presence.

The foreign secretary described the talks between the two Afghan leaders as positive. Shaharyar Khan said now it is up to the Afghan leaders to remove the remaining differences as they are holding direct talks with each other and they themselves should decide how much representation should be given to each Afghan group in the Afghan Cabinet.

Answering a question, the foreign secretary said he had met with the representative of Rashid Dostam, and Dostam's attitude is also positive and cooperative like that of the other Afghan leaders. He said Hezb-e Wahadat leader Ayatollah Fazel has also joined the negotiation process.

Tehran on Agreements

NC0503074093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] The talks among the leaders of Afghanistan's jihad groups continued yesterday, with the conflicting sides reaching new agreements on how to run Afghanistan's affairs. Our colleague Khameneh reports from Islamabad.

[Begin Khameneh recording] The leaders of Afghanistan's major jihad forces continued talking until midnight last night in the Pakistani capital to exchange views on the sides' latest stances. These talks, which are considered the last phase of efforts to align the views of the groups on some of the controversial articles in the plan propounded at the Islamabad talks, will continue tomorrow, possibly this afternoon, so as to reach a final agreement.

Borhanoddin Rabbani and his major opponent Golboddin Hekmatyar reached an agreement on Wednesday on the framework of a plan for the division of power. Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Shahryar Khan said last night that this solution enjoys the support of most Afghan groups. He added: We expect effective and positive progress to be achieved and existing obstacles to be removed.

Based on agreements reached so far, Borhanoddin Rabbani will retain the presidential position for 18 months and Golboddin Hekmatyar will act as prime minister. The formation of an election committee to determine how presidents will be elected is among the other agreements that have been reached. Confirming these, Shahryar Khan added that Afghanistan's jihad forces have discussed the need to form a defense council to ensure military security and that they emphasize this point.

The Cabinet's composition and the distribution of Cabinet posts are among the major differences remaining. As far as this issue is concerned, the majority vote could be considered. The parties' military power is said to be the most important element in this. The distribution of important posts such as the Ministry of National Security, Ministry of Home Affairs, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is not yet clear.

Shahryar Khan has stated that the Cabinet positions will be divided fairly, but not necessarily equally. Pointing out that this problem will also be solved soon, he said: The task of putting down on paper some of the agreed articles of the peace pact has begun; we hope the pact will be signed.

Islamabad diplomatic circles wonder when, if a pact is signed, it will be respected and implemented. Around nine months after Afghan groups signed another agreement, its contents have not been fully respected. [end recording]

No Final Agreement; Talks Adjourned

BK0503084693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0836 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] Islamabad, March 5 (AFP)—Afghan peace talks adjourned Friday after four days of peace talks foundered on the question of the distribution of key government posts among rival factions, official sources here said.

Main opposition leader Golboddin Hekmatyar, offered the post of prime minister in the proposed draft, left for northwest Peshawar on a special flight, sources in his Hezb-e Eslami party said.

Sources said several other delegation members had also gone to Peshawar to spend time with their families in camps set up for some 3.5 million people displaced during Afghanistan's 14 year anti- communist war.

Both Afghan and Pakistani sources said the leaders were expected to return late Friday and continue discussions to reach consensus on major issues.

Most Afghan leaders here have agreed to allow Rabbani to retain power for 18 months. He has agreed to curtail the two year tenure controversially granted by a "handpicked" assembly in December, and to induct his main rival Hekmatyar as prime minister.

But sources said the leaders were unable to resolve the question of allocating key ministries to the main parties as the Pakistani proposal is for one key government slot for each party.

Pakistani sources said the leaders would discuss a revised draft which includes allocating government portfolios on the basis of each party's military strength.

Rabbani's Jamait-e- Eslami party opposed the original scheme as major portfolios are currently under its control. The powerful defence ministry is also under the command of Jamiat commander Mas'ud.

Hekmatyar, opposed to allocating the presidency and defence ministry to the same party, told the press here that "there is nothing which can be called an agreement, but we are hopeful."

The Peshawar visit is Hekmatyar's first since mojahedin forces took over Kabul folowing the collapse of the pro-Moscow regime in April.

The hardline leader, whose forces have besieged Kabul and fought the troops of President Borhanoddin Rabbani and his defence minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud for the past 10 months, will address Friday a congregation of Afghan refugees in Peshawar's suburban town of Shamshatu.

Rabbani Confident Fighting To End

BK0503112593 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] The Afghan president, Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, has expressed his confidence that the problem of fighting in the capital Kabul will be overcome soon as a result of talks with various Afghan groups. He was addressing a Juma [Friday prayer] congregation in Islamabad today. President Rabbani said it was natural that after a revolution a country faces certain difficulties and Afghanistan was not an exception. He thanked the government, people and ulema of Pakistan for their wholehearted support to Afghan people in their 14-year jihad against a superpower. He said this sort of jihad in Afghanistan was exemplary in the present-day world where nobody was thinking that Afghan mojahedin would be able to force a superpower to leave Afghanistan.

President Rabbani said various Afghan groups have their point of view on different issues, but the talks between them was the best way to overcome those problems on which they differ. He said his country is facing the problem of foodstuff, but he was sure that with the cooperation of friends like Pakistan they would overcome it.

Iran's Borujerdi Meets Afghan Group

LD0503121493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi, our country's deputy foreign affairs minister, who is in Islamabad to mediate and supervise the talks between various Afghan groups, this morning met with Ayatollah Fazel, member of the Supreme Supervisory Council [shora-ye 'ali-ye nezarat] of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami of Afghanistan. The two parties reviewed the latest developments in the talks which have been held between leaders of various Afghan jihadi groups in Islamabad.

During the meeting it was stressed that in order to solve the Afghan problems all jihadi groups should participate in the government structure according to their capability and power.

Human Rights Movement Says 3,900 Killed in Kashmir

BK0203143893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] A human rights organization in Srinagar in a report says 3,900 people have been killed by Indian troops during the period ending last December. The Human Rights Movement Srinagar in its report gave a list of names and addresses of most of the victims killed by Indian troops during house-to-house searches and in torture cells. Four hundred and seventy women were molested and 4,000 people were injured in violence and firing by occupation forces. The report further adds more than 17,000 people were arrested, a majority of whom were disabled for life due to inhuman torture. The report has drawn attention of the world human rights organizations to these blatant human rights violations by Indian troops.

Meanwhile, Indian forces have increased their repression after further extension by six months of president's rule in occupied Kashmir. According to KMS [KASHMIR MEDIA SERVICE] 60 innocent people were rounded up by troops in Jammu region. Fifty of them were released after severe torture. Two mojahedin were martyred in clash with troops in Baramulla.

Sharif on Ties With India, Kashmir

BK0303041393 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Text] The prime minister has said the forthcoming conference of the foreign ministers of Islamic countries is a good opportunity to discuss several important problems confronting the Islamic community and to strengthen solidarity among Muslims. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said this in his interview to RIYADH DAILY, which was also published in the Arabic edition of the daily AL-RIYADH. He said the Islamic community is facing various challenges, including Kashmir, Bosnia, and Palestine, which will be given due consideration at the conference. Pakistan has been asked to host this conference. On the financial resources of the Islamic countries, he said these valuable resources have not been utilized properly. He said the Islamic Conference Organization wants to establish a common market of Islamic countries and this objective should be achieved in stages.

In reply to a question on India-Pakistan relations, the prime minister said due to India's negative tendency, these relations are more lukewarm today than before. He said Kashmir, the basic issue hindering bilateral ties, has so far not been resolved. When this issue is properly resolved, the bilateral issues will in turn be easily resolved. He said India has not accepted Pakistan's offer to hold bilateral talks on Kashmir under Article Six of the Simla agreement. Contrary to this, it has stepped up its oppression on Kashmir and its despicable propaganda against Pakistan.

India's Positive Response on Dialogue Welcomed

BK0303120893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad has welcomed what appears to be a positive response from India to Prime Minister Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif's call for a dialogue between the two countries. At a briefing today, he referred in this context to an interview given by the Indian foreign minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, to KHALEEJ TIMES, in which he stated that India has not put any preconditions for a dialogue with Pakistan on all outstanding issues. However, the spokesman said, it appears that India remains unprepared for a dialogue with Pakistan on the core issue between the two countries, that is the dispute of Jammu and Kashmir.

Indian Defense Budget Said To Exceed Requirements

BK0503100193 Rawalpindi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 2 Mar 93 p4

[Editorial: "Increased allocation for defense in Indian budget"]

[Text] Presenting the budget for the new financial year in the parliament, the Indian finance minister has said that military spending has been increased from $5.63 billion to $6.39 billion and 190 billion [currency not specified] has been earmarked for defense. Thus there has been an increased allocation of 17 billion rupees for military spending. Governments in India, one after another, have been gruadually enhancing defense allocations and the current increase has been made in the backdrop of the massive deployment of the Indian Army in occupied Kashmir as well as the launching of a major program to manufacture all types of military hardware, weapons and even missiles; enhancing naval might, expanding the atomic program; and stepping up its threats to neighboring countries. In the past several decades, India has been stockpiling arms. It has received arms from the former Soviet Union even after its fragmentation, and has purchased arms from western markets as well. There is no doubt that India's military preparations exceed its legitimate requirements and its tendency has badly marred the balance of power in the region. India's neighbors are forced to enter into an arms race against their will and they could not have a traditional or any other sort of deterrence against the massive preparations of the Indian Army. As in the past, even now there is ample scope for aggression against these smaller countries. Indian preparations are not confined to traditional weapons alone. The new CIA chief informed the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee that India is developing weapons-grade plutonium. Meanwhile, with a view to check India, western countries ask against whom is it making all such preparations [words indistinct] and influenced by Indian propaganda, they blame Pakistan only and continuously exert pressure on it to reduce its military spending. In fact, when India's military spending increases, its neighbors, including Pakistan, are constrained to spend a certain extent for their defense and security. Thus, only India is responsible for the increased defense allocation by several countries. Under these circumstances, it is expected from the financial institutions of western countries, especially of the United States of America, the World Bank, and the IMF that they will take serious note of India's increased allocation for defense. If they exert pressure on a country like Pakistan, which spends only an indispensable amount on defense, to reduce military spending, why can't they admonish India? Recently, Japan also asked Pakistan to reduce its defense spending. It should also take note of India's preparations.

Curfew Imposed in Sindh Border Areas

BK0503112993 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 5 Mar 93 p 12

[PAKISTAN PRESS AGENCY item]

[Text] Sangarh, March 4—Curfew has been imposed in villages and towns on Pak-India border following the seizure of high intensity explosive material, which was being smuggled into Pakistan by the Indian secret service, RAW two days back.

Though no official announcement to this effect has been made yet dusk to dawn curfew has been clamped and public movement is restricted in the villages along the border after evening time. All the important government buildings in the district are being strictly guarded and heavy police and ranger contingents have been deployed at the local grid station.

All the vehicles entering the district are being thoroughly searched at all the check posts. It has been ascertained that the seized explosive material could also be used in missile.

Agreement Signed With IAEA on Plant Safeguards

BK0303032093 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 2 Mar 93 p 2

[Text] Islamabad, March 1—Pakistan and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) have signed an agreement for the application of agency's safeguards on 300 MWE nuclear power plant being installed at Chashma.

The agreement was signed in Vienna the other day during the meeting of IAEA Board of Governors. Chairman of Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission Dr Ishafq Ahmad who attended the meeting as Governor from Pakistan and Dr Hans Blix, Director General IAEA, signed the agreement on behalf of their respective sides.

The agreement has been signed in pursuance of the contract concluded between Pakistan and China in Beijing on December 31, 1991 under which China is supplying the power plant to Pakistan.

The agency has two types of standard safeguard agreements one for the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] and the other for non-NPT countries. The agreement which Pakistan has signed with the IAEA is of the second type. Pakistan it may be mentioned successfully persisted the attempts to change the charactor of the agreement from non-NPT to NPT for Chashma nuclear power plant.

U.S., Russian Nuclear Reports Criticized

BK0403125593 Lahore PAKISTAN in Urdu 2 Mar 93 p 10

[Editorial: "Vigilance on Pakistan by U.S. and Russian Intelligence Agencies"]

[Text] The U.S. and Russian intelligence agencies have focused all their attention on fabricating assessments about Pakistan's nuclear capability. The objective is probably to prove these fabricated allegations as "true", that Pakistan has manufactured a nuclear weapon. It has been added now that Pakistan has also produced nuclear missiles capable of hitting Delhi and Bombay. If there is a nuclear weapon, it should be used, and there should be long-range missiles as well. Basing on this logic, the U.S. and Russian intelligence agencies have also discovered the existence of nuclear missiles in Pakistan. Why is all this being done?

Pakistan's nuclear capability is dedicated to peaceful purposes. But the United States and its new ally Russia are not ready to accept it. The intention is nothing but to increase the pressure on Pakistan and to restrain the new U.S. administration from taking a softer attitude toward this country. It is being repeatedly claimed that Pakistan possesses four to seven nuclear bombs which are capable of targeting big cities in India!

Pakistan is a peace-loving country and it is aware of the devastations of a nuclear war. It has never endorsed the production and use of nuclear weapons. It knows that a nuclear war is not a solution to any issue and its outcome is nothing but total destruction. Now, if some of the U.S. agencies say that in the event of a nuclear war between Pakistan and India, one country will be destroyed and disintegrated, it can be termed as nothing but an attempt to mislead the people.

The United States and Russia are in a position to persuade and convince India to settle all disputed issues with Pakistan in a peaceful manner and they should make use of their position to achieve this objective. Any attempt to fan the existing misunderstanding between Pakistan and India and to create misgivings between them can only be termed a nefarious conspiracy. Pakistan believes in the establishment of peace and stability in this region. It hopes that the only superpower of the world and its allies will join hands in extinguishing the fire of disharmony instead of adding fuel to the fire and will contribute to the strengthening of regional and global peace.

Foreign Exchange Reserves Over $1 Billion

BK0303095293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Text] The government has so far realized 3,957 million rupees by privatizing 57 state-owned industrial units and remaining amount of over 4,346 million rupees will be received in installments. This information was given by the finance minister, Mr. Sartaj Aziz, to the Senate today while replying to a question by Mir Abdul Jabbar. The minister also told the house that the government has evolved a system to monitor performance of the privatized units over the next three years. Replying to a question by Syed Aftab Ahmad, the finance minister said the country's foreign exchange reserves soared to $1,009 million as of last month.

The minister for commerce, Malik Mohammad Naim, told the house in reply to a question by Hafiz Hussain Ahmed that a proposal was under consideration for setting up of a common border market at Mirjawa on Pakistan-Iran border. The proposal envisages construction of a market on the border, having half of the building in Iran and other half in Pakistan. The traders would be entitled to the sale and purchase of items of a given value from the range of items to be agreed by the two countries.

Minister Gives Details on New Oil Refineries

BK0403084293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] The Senate was informed today that about 150 federal laws are under active consideration of the government to bring them in confirmity with the injunctions of Koran and Sunna. The minister for religious affairs, Maulana Abdul Sattar Khan Niazi, told the house in reply to a question by Hafiz Hussain Ahmad that amendments to these laws have been recommended by the Council of Islamic Ideology, different agencies of government are reviewing them, and Nifaz-i-Shariat [Enforcement of Islamic System] Committee of the ministry is monitoring the process.

The minister for petroleum, Chaudhary Nissar Ali Khan, replying to a question by Raja Mohammad Afzal informed the house that steps are underway to set up three oil refineries in the country. He said at present about 3 million barrels of oil is sent abroad for refining due to lack of required capacity at home. Giving details of the new refineries, he said an agreement has already been signed with Iran for setting up a refinery having a capacity of 120,000 barrels of oil per day. Another refinery of 80,000 barrels capacity is proposed to be set up at Multan with the assistance of Abu Dhabi. The World Bank has indicated its willingness to finance the project. The third refinery is to be set up in Karachi by the private sector.

Agreements Signed for Japanese Assistance

BK0403150693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Under two separate agreements signed in Islamabad today, Japan will provide $222 million to Pakistan. The assistance and grant-in-aid will be utilized for the rehabilitation of the flood affectee and provision of equipment. Japanese ambassador, Mr. Kunio Muraoka, and secretary general of Economic Affairs Division, Mr. R. Akhund, signed the agreements on behalf of their respective governments. Of the amount, $104 million will be spent on implementing the program of reconstruction and rehabilitation of infrastructure devastated by floods last year. The grant of $118 million will be utilized for purchase of educational equipment for the University of Engineering and Technology, Peshawar.

Afghan Minister on Steps Against Narcotics Trade

BK0403030893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Strenghthening Pakistan-Afghan relations in various fields of mutual advantage has been discussed at a meeting in Islamabad yesterday. The meeting was held between Pakistan Federal Interior Minister Chaudhary Shujat Hussain and Afghan Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister, Engineer Ahmad Shah.

The Afghan deputy prime minister expressed his desire to seek Pakistan's cooperation in organizing and training Afghan police. The federal interior minister assured the Afghan minister all possible cooperation from Pakistan in this field. The meeting also assessed the means of effectively cooperating with each other to eliminate use of narcotics and its trafficking. Both ministers exchanged views on anti-trafficking measures and ways to promoting the trade and economic ties between the two countries.

Six Foreigners Arrested for Drug Smuggling

BK0403073793 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0600 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Authorities of the anti-narcotics cell of the Customs Department arrested six foreigners and recovered 14.7 kg of heroin from them. They were trying to smuggle the heroin in their suitcases.

Refugee Issue Discussed With Afghan Delegation

BK0403162093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] The visiting Afghan delegation, led by [Deputy] Minister for Border Affairs Haji Mohammad Nayim Kochi, called on the federal minister for states and frontier region, Sardar Yaqub Khan Nasir, in Islamabad today. Matters pertaining to the movement of goods sent to Afghanistan as donations were especially discussed. They also discussed the steps for the return of refugees and reconstruction in Afghanistan. The federal minister assured the delegation that Pakistan will take every possible step toward a honorable return of the refugees as well as the reconstruction work in Afghanistan. He said that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif agreed to set up a six-member commission, including representatives from Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for the return of Afghan refugees. The delegation thanked Pakistan for providing humanitarian assistance to the refugees.

FIA Head Says 'All Efforts' To Catch Kansi

BK0503114993 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 5 Mar 93 p 12

[PAKISTAN PRESS INTERNATIONAL Item]

[Text] Bahawalpur—Director General FIA [Federal Investigative Agency] has informed all law enforcing agencies that Mir Amal Kansi had arrived in Karachi on twenty-eight January 1993 by a PIA [Pakistan International Airlines] flight PK-704.

He directed the authorities concerned that all possible efforts may be made to trace him out.

Sri Lanka

Japan Gives 3.6 Billion for Flood Control

BK0203132693 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] Japan is contributing 3,600 million rupees of the total project cost of 4,000 million rupees toward the greater Colombo flood control and environment improvement project. This was disclosed by Dr. Sarath M.B. Obeysekhara, chairman of the Sri Lanka Land Reclamation and Development Corporation, at a news conference in Colombo. He said the project was mooted in 1985 when Mr. Sirisena Cooray was mayor of Colombo. After the news briefing, the press, radio and television personnel toured the project area through Nawala and the Kirillapone canal. This included the high-level road bridge and crossing the Wellawatta canal which gave the newsmen an opportunity to study the relocation program in action. The skeleton (Gaidi) community consisting of 115 housing units and 135 families is being totally relocated in Attidiya. Assisting Dr. Obeysekhara was (Takhoimi Suzuki) of (Nippon Khoi-T), leader for the consultants of the project, and (Nigel Cradock) and David Morgan—consultants from W.S. Atkins International, who are providing technical assistance for the project. The working director of the corporation, Bernard Pereira, has taken special interest in this project.

Legislators Welcome LTTE Compromise Offer

BK0303104093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1000 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Text] Colombo, March 3 (AFP)—Tamil legislators Wednesday welcomed a peace offer by Tamil Tiger guerrillas and described the move as a step towards ending ethnic bloodshed in Sri Lanka but analysts were sceptical.

Two opposition Tamil parties said Colombo should take advantage of the offer by the dominant Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to compromise on its key demand for a homeland and intiate a fresh poltical package.

LTTE supremo, Velupillai Prabhakaran, 38, has said he was prepared to consider a federal form of government to end the dragging ethnic conflict which has claimed thousands of lives in the past 20 years.

In a rare interview, Prabhakaran told the British Broadcasting Corp (BBC) in the LTTE-controlled northern Jaffna town late last month: "If a federal set-up proposal which gives autonomy and satisfies the expectations of the Tamil people is put forward, we are prepared to consider it."

The LTTE had consistently demanded a separate state called Eelam consisting of about one third of the land area of Sri Lanka in the island's northeast where the two million Tamil minority is concentrated.

Joseph Pararajasingam, an MP of the moderate Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), said remarks of the LTTE supremo showed that he had come to terms with reality and was willing to accept an alternative to Eelam.

"This is a welcome step. The government must now try to clinch it. I have always said that without bringing the LTTE in you cannot have a solution implemented on the ground," Pararajasingam told AFP.

Another Tamil MP, Suresh Premachandra of the LTTE's arch rival the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), said Prabhakaran had climbed down and described as a "very good idea" the LTTE offer to compromise.

Premachandra too said that the government of President Ranasinghe Premadasa should now workout a new package to devolve powers to a federal state uniting the northern and eastern provinces.

However, the EPRLF MP also advocated caution saying that the genuiness of the LTTE overtures must be established first.

The leader of the Liberal Party, Chanka Amaratunga who is also a noted political analyst, said he thought that the Tiger offer was more of a propoganda ploy than a serious attempt to resolve the long-drawn conflict.

"Wanting a federal constitution within a unitary Sri Lanka does appear resonable. But personally, I remain sceptical because knowing the character of the man (Prabhakaran).

"What he really means by a federal state is that he wants total power in the northeast. He has not said they have dropped their doctrine of considering themselves the sole representatives of Tamils," Amaratunga said.

The LTTE has been accused of killing hundreds of rival Tamil guerrillas, including the leadership of both the EPRLF and the TULF which have representatives in parliament.

Said Prabharakan: "I wish for peace from the bottom of my heart. I want my people to live in peace, freely and with dignity."

There has been no reaction from the government to Prabhakaran's offer although the press here gave wide coverage to the BBC report.

Senior administration officials said they noted a softening in the Tiger stand while military sources said they believed that Tigers were looking for a break to regroup and rearm.

Fourteen months of talks between the LTTE and Colombo ended in failure in June 1990 leading to renewed fighting.

The elusive LTTE chief said there was no political initiative from Colombo to end the Tamil conflict but he believed that the military was preparing for a major offensive against them.

Prabhakaran, a hero to his cadres and most Tamils but a self- confessed murderer in government circles, conceded that he had fewer combatants than the security forces but vowed to keep up the fight.

Over 250 LTTE Leaders Killed Since 1990

BK0403113893 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Sri Lanka's military chief, General Officer Commanding, Joint Operations Command, General Hamilton Wanasinghe told LANKAPUVATH that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] was getting militarily weaker by the day. The security forces, however, are getting closer to the leadership of the LTTE.

Meanwhile, military sources told LANKAPUVATH that over 250 LTTE military and political wing leaders had been killed by the security forces since the Eelam War-II began in June 1990. Military sources also said according to intelligence reports, there were large-scale desertions and an increase in number of anti-LTTE (?units) operating in Jaffna.